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FORMER AMBASSADOR CAMILION PRESAGES END TO BEAGLE DISPUTE

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 16 Dec 83 p 58

[Commentary by Oscar Camilion; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] The inaugural ceremonies provided an opportunity for Buenos Aires to host the most important group of personages ever to visit our country on such an occasion. Latin American presidents came representing Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Panama and Guatemala. The prime ministers of France, Italy, Spain and Portugal were present. The vice-president of the United States was here, as was the most renowned of the commanders of the Nicaraguan Junta, and the vice-president of Cuba. The level of the delegations bore a certain relation to the political affinities ascribed to Dr Alfonsín's government. Perhaps for this reason, the neighboring countries that are high among Argentina's priorities were represented adequately but less prominently. As is often the case in these matters, Buenos Aires was not only the site of the festivities sponsored by the host country, but also served as a meeting place for contacts of interest to the guests' governments.

Now that the celebration is over, Argentina must prepare to grapple seriously and coherently with the solution of problems that have been building up over the past years. Some of them are historic legacies; others stem from recent errors; still others are the result of the nation's capacity to do important things, to achieve progress despite the image of instability that we have been tarnished with during recent decades.

No one contends that merely becoming a democracy resolves issues that sometimes date back a hundred years. Moreover, experience will soon show that even the problem of human rights will not disappear completely from the concerns of the Foreign Ministry. At the same time, our foreign policy will have to analyze the treatment of the human rights issue in international organizations with respect to some countries that are of great importance to us. It remains to be seen whether it is possible to reconcile automatically political stands based on principle, with the need to avoid confrontations with neighboring governments whose support we need in matters of continuing national interest.

Expectations for a prompt solution to the Beagle conflict give rise to certain pressures, but we will have to be prudent and wait. It should be noted that

any step taken at this time should be coordinated with the future legislative handling of a /treaty with Chile/. It is highly likely that due to domestic considerations in Argentina as well as Chile, the next few months will be the most propitious time to put an end to the dispute. Nevertheless, we will have to see how much of a consensus there is in Congress to accept the papal proposal. It is true that legislative ratification is not necessary to accept such a proposal, but it is necessary for the resulting treaty, so it would be wise to make an efficient effort to inform and persuade.

The exchange of messages with the government of England has been positive, above all because it authorizes the continuation of discreet contacts on other levels. It would be premature to pass judgment on future attitudes in important countries such as France and Italy. What their prime ministers said here is encouraging, considering the recent voting in the United Nations. At the same time, it is clear that progress can be made on the Malvinas affair only on the basis of Argentine decisions that will require that the new government set forth very clear objectives.

The positions announced by Dr Alfonsín with regard to Central America seem correct. They do not differ from those maintained recently by our diplomats, since the Malvinas war did away with the interventionist messianism that had begun to emerge. But for that very reason, these positions appear to guarantee more responsibility. The new government has every reason to give more decisive support to the /principle of non-intervention,/ which is Argentina's traditional stance in the region. This, of course, could put our diplomacy to the test if the United States were to decide to take new steps in the opposite direction. Dr Alfonsín knows perfectly well that the nature of his relations with Washington is crucial, and he must also not forget that these relations will not harmonize automatically, particularly with civilians occupying the Casa Rosada.

The American press, which has lauded the restoration of democracy in Argentina, has made abundant mention of our nuclear policy recently. There is no doubt that strong pressure will be exerted to impose safeguards on the /"sensitive"/ aspects of the Argentine atomic plan. In this area, precisely because of the advances it has achieved, Argentina may have greater diplomatic leverage than it used to have, something the new government should think about, especially considering the external financial difficulties that have not abated.

Relations with Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay will require special attention. States, and not other groups, determine permanent interests. This will require education and patience within the new national context.

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CSO: 3348/156

BEAGLE NEGOTIATOR RETURNS FROM ROME 'CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC'

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 26 Dec 83 pp 1, 13

[Text] The secretary of state for special affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Relations, Dr Hugo Gobbi, described himself as "cautiously optimistic" on his return from Rome, where he participated in official talks in connection with the Pope's mediation of the Argentine-Chilean dispute over the Beagle Channel.

Gobbi declined to reveal to the press specific details of the talks at the Vatican, stating that "the area of disagreement (with Chile) is much smaller than at the beginning of the negotiations," but he implicitly promised more details after his meeting with Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today.

It should be noted, as LA NACION reported in its issue the day before yesterday, that Dr Gobbi returned from the Holy See with documentation containing the Chilean proposal "to reduce the differences between the parties," according to statements made at Palacio San Martin.

Corroborating Gobbi's assertions completely, the chief of the Argentine delegation to the papal mediation of the southern dispute with Chile, Gen Ricardo Etcheverry Boneo, stated that "the negotiations with Chile are at a very good level, and are moving along nicely," but he declined to estimate a date when the border conflict would be resolved completely.

In Santiago, Chile, as a campaign for permanent peace between Chile and Argentina began under the auspices of the entity known as Community for Human Development, the archbishop of the Chilean capital, Juan Francisco Fresno, expressed hope that the border dispute can be resolved "soon."

New Stage

In his brief talk with journalists upon his arrival at Ezeiza, Dr Gobbi stated, "I do not want to make any statement on specific matters until I talk with Foreign Minister Caputo." Reporters reminded the diplomat that the Argentine public needs to know a few details of the Argentine proposal and the real chances of reaching a rapid understanding with Chile to resolve this prolonged dispute. Gobbi merely commented: "We are convinced that we are in a new stage, and that we will provide information," but he stressed the

importance of informing the foreign minister first, so that "afterwards a complete press statement can be released."

Gobbi indicated that "obviously, 100 percent satisfactory results cannot be obtained," referring to the possibility that a good agreement might leave both parties of the dispute unhappy, because "all agreements, all negotiated solutions involve compromising, that is, giving in on some issues and winning on others."

New Ideas

Although Argentine Foreign Ministry officials are maintaining silence regarding a possible quick solution to the border dispute with Chile, various reliable sources have indicated that "rapid and satisfactory" progress is being made toward a final agreement. Before leaving for Rome, Gobbi himself commented that he would convey to the authorities of the Holy See "some new ideas" to speed up negotiations.

Within the frame of reference indicated by observers, Luis Maria Ricchieri, a member of the Argentine delegation to the papal mediation, is quoted as saying that Cobbi's presence at the Vatican "was not just another visit."

8926

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GOVERNMENT LEADERS ADDRESS PLP ANNUAL CONVENTION

Agriculture Minister

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 28 Oct 83 pp 1B, 3B

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Excerpt]

AGRICULTURE Minister George Smith Wednesday declared that 18,000 jobs can be created from investment in local food production and warned employers to quickly change the sub-standard wages and living conditions and long working hours imposed on 8,000 non-Bahamian farmers before the Government is forced to intervene.

The second of three Cabinet Ministers to address the third night of the PLP 28th annual convention, Mr Smith, who also holds the portfolios of Fisheries and Local Government, told over 1,000 delegates that the capacity for providing employment opportunities in farming is immense.

He noted that in a recent publication, the Bahamas Development Bank indicated that loans totalling \$8 million had created 750 new jobs, meaning that it costs roughly \$10,000 to create each job.

"When you consider that we spend \$180 million on food imports, one can easily see that with a similar investment in local production, 18,000 jobs can be created," he said. "The present estimate is that there are 3,000 Bahamians actively employed in this area."

"However," Minister Smith told the convention, "we believe that 8,000 non-Bahamians are employed in farming, and, let me quickly say that I do not place the blame entirely on those who refuse to accept work in that sector."

"I say this because it is downright indecent of farmers to expect Bahamians (or indeed any human being) to accept the conditions and standards which they impose on those 8,000 people," the Minister said.

"I therefore call upon all persons involved to bring about a change in these conditions by themselves quickly before the Government is required to intervene," he said. "We cannot stand idly by and allow sub-standard wages, sub-standard living conditions, and unreasonably long hours of work which discourage Bahamians from taking advantage of the opportunities to obtain many of these jobs which exist in our own land."

The Minister added: "This practice flaunts everything this party stands for and it must not be tolerated."

Also addressing the conven-

tion being held under the theme: "Getting down to business step by step," were Transport Minister Philip Bethel and Housing and National Insurance Minister Hubert Ingraham, whose speech ended the third night of the five-day parley.

In attendance and seated with their constituency delegations were Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling, MP for Kemps Bay, Andros, and Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Hanna, MP for Ann's Town.

In his address to delegates in the Polaris Hall of the Holiday Inn Hotel on Paradise Island, Minister Smith also unleashed an attack on Official Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs, Blue Hills MP Arthur Foulkes and FNM Senate Leader Henry Bostwick.

He also outlined some of the progress made in the development of agro-industries and the opportunities which will become available.

He said that the Bahamas has a total land area of 3.5 million acres, 238,000 of which are considered to have excellent agricultural potential with 400,000 of the remaining acreage being forest lands.

Noting that Government's

policy is to maximize the use of the lands to derive the greatest possible benefits from them, Mr Smith said that the Bahamas has been blessed with productive virgin forests on Abaco, Andros and Grand Bahama.

"These forest lands hold high potential for exploration, and can form the basis for several types of industrial projects such as lumber production, stumpwood and gum resin extraction," he said.

Mr Smith, MP for Rolleville, Exuma, said the industries are job intensive and will provide additional employment opportunity on those islands.

He said that before the projects come on stream, a full evaluation of their possibilities must be determined.

"Therefore a forest inventory will be undertaken, and when it is completed in mid-1984, projects now in hand, will provide at least 120 jobs, with more opportunities being created as development continues," he said. "We need therefore to be ready to take advantage of these opportunities in forestry."

The Minister also told delegates that the total annual food bill for the Bahamas amounts to \$230 million, of which only \$50 million is presently produced locally.

He said that more people must become involved in farming and fishing, which is not being satisfactorily exploited, if we are to realize the potential for greater economic well being.

He also disclosed that a joint venture arrangement between the Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation and a foreign group to develop a

19,000 head beef project utilizing 25,000 acres of land at Abaco, will start in January, 1984.

In addition to the main project, which represents an investment of \$8 million, support units will be developed to be owned and operated by Bahamians who demonstrate their willingness and ability to become independent farmers.

"These support-units will act as feeders to increase the production capacity of the main project," he said, adding that it is desirable that young Bahamians should be the owners of the support units.

In order to effect this, he said, the ministries of Agriculture and Youth, Sports and Community Affairs will seek and identify young Bahamians of school leaving age who have attained the desired standards and who are desirous of becoming farming entrepreneurs.

"They will receive the basic training necessary for them to run the support units which will in turn employ others," he said. "All in all, the beef project together with the support units will create a large number of jobs at Abaco."

Transport Minister

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 28 Oct 83 p 2B

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

TRANSPORT Minister Philip Bethel disclosed Wednesday night that since the Far East trip in March, dozens of ships have been transferred to the Bahamian Registry, quadrupling the number of ships flying the Bahamas flag in just a matter of months.

Addressing the 28th annual convention of the PLP at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Mr Bethel told delegates that the country reached its high point in the history of Bahamian open registry shipping on October 1 when 10 tankers were registered in one day.

The Minister also revealed that Lloyd's List, a daily shipping newspaper published in London, commented in a front page article on October 3, that the Bahamas is poised to become the world's third major open registry when a leading US tanker operator switches 10 ships to the Bahamas flag.

"The move is expected to be finalised soon and will mean that total tonnage on the Bahamian registry will leap to nearly four million. The development is a major coup for the Bahamas," said the article on the switch of tankers from Liberian to Bahamian registry.

It further stated that the spokesman for the company registering these ships said every maritime country in the world was investigated as a possible target for such a switch, before the Bahamas was decided on.

Mr Bethel told over 1,000 delegates and PLP followers attending the five-day convention in the hotel's Polaris Hall that there was a "subtle inference" at the heart of the Opposition's inquiry of the Far East trip which questioned the integrity of Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling and every member of the delegation.

He said that it is utter nonsense that the Prime Minister would mismanage public funds by taking a holiday to the Far East.

He repeated that the purpose of the trip was for the promotion of the Bahamas and one facet was open registry shipping in which the Bahamas is actively engaged.

He said that meetings in the US, Hong Kong and Japan, from a ship registry view point, brought them into contact with major American ship owners and the entire Hong Kong and Japanese shipping communities.

"It was but a short time after our return to the Bahamas that we began to reap the fruits of our labour," Mr Bethel said. "Since the Far East trip in March, literally dozens of ships have been transferred to our Bahamian Registry - quadrupling the number of ships flying the Bahamian flag in just a matter of months."

He added: "This is borne out by the fact that on October 1, that's right, just three weeks ago, we reached the high point in the history of Bahamian open registry shipping.

"In one day, we registered ten tankers - did you hear me? Ten tankers which resulted in an increase to the registry of 1,535,315 gross tons. The fees earned for the Treasury from these additions to the fleet totalled \$1,326,990."

He told delegates that the registration fees from one tanker of the fleet registered with the Bahamas was more than enough to pay the \$98,922.77 cost of the entire trip of the delegation to the Far East, proving again that the Opposition did not know what they were talking about.

"They thought we were fooling when we set a target of a million tons by the end of this year," he said. "By the end of this year we will have had four million tons."

He said that the Bahamas flag fleet includes ships owned by such major companies as Cunard, Exxon, Smit, Getty, East Asiatic and Lauritzen.

"The fact that we have some of the giants in the shipping industry registered with us is a vote of confidence in our programme," the Transport Minister said. "The Bahamian flag is flown around the world. We are on our way, step by step, and there is no turning back as we get down to business."

He said that with open registry shipping branch offices in London, and more recently in New York, two of the world's great shipping centres, the Bahamas can be expected to continue its growth to the top as the world's major open registry shipping country.

"For Bahamians willing to work hard, I foresee in five to seven years some 500 to 1,000 jobs being created from the fall-out from this industry," he said.

He also revealed that with the opening of the Cable Beach Hotel and Casino and with expansion to several other resorts and properties, the growth in the Bahamian economy and its population, the Government has deemed it necessary to increase the quota of taxi cabs for New Providence and Grand Bahama.

"With the anticipated growth in tourism, drivers who will

receive new franchises are expected to make substantial earnings and are an example of the Government's intent to raise the standards of living of all Bahamians," Mr Bethel said.

He added that there also will be an increase in self-drive cars and scooter franchises for New Providence, Grand Bahama and a number of the Family Islands.

The Minister said that there are plans to improve and expand Nassau harbour and to continue the reclamation programme along East Bay Street near Potter's Cay as part of the overall improvement and beautification plan for the waterfront.

He said that tremendous improvements have been made in upgrading the standard of the inter-island mailboat fleet, which he described as being "in the best shape it has ever been and has resulted in better comfort and safety for Family Island passengers and tourists alike and higher profits for owners."

He further announced that the paving of the main runway at Nassau International Airport has been completed at a cost of \$5.4 million; and that it is anticipated that the secondary runway will be resurfaced soon.

In another area, he said, equipment for the Nassau International Airport radar project has begun to arrive and if all goes well installation should be completed early in 1984.

"This new facility, which will represent an investment of close to \$5 million by the Government, would greatly improve the safety factor and will allow for accommodation of more aircraft in our controlled airspace," the Minister said.

He said that the new radar system and the improvements to the runways are vital to the operation of a modern airport, especially one such as the Bahamas' which accommodates some of the world's largest aircraft.

He also announced that another major American carrier will soon join the ranks of international airlines which serve the Bahamas on a regularly scheduled basis.

He said that earlier this month agreement in principle was reached with United Airlines to fly to Nassau and Freeport on a daily basis, direct from Chicago and that the airline has had the highest profit margin of any American carrier last year.

He said that United Airlines will join Pan American, Eastern, American, British Airways, Air Canada, Delta and Bahamasair on international flight services.

"We have been so successful in our efforts that Nassau International Airport is fast becoming the busiest air terminal in the Caribbean," he said. "We have almost run out of space to put airlines."

Pindling on PLP 'Register'

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 28 Oct 83 p 1B

[Text] Prime Minister Pindling, "getting down to business, step by step", told the delegates to the Paradise Island campus of the University of Wulff Road--the 28th annual PLP convention--that:

"As a first step we must get to know what each of us can do and what each of us has to offer. At the moment, we are handicapped. We do not know who to recommend for what because we don't really know who is in what business and who has what skill. This information needs to be compiled in one place and made available, especially to Ministers and Permanent Secretaries.

"To make a beginning this week, the convention staff will begin to compile a PLP register of businesses and skills so that we would better know who is where and who can do what."

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 29 Oct 83 p 11

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

HOUSING and National Insurance Minister Hubert Ingraham told delegates to the PLP's 28th annual convention Wednesday night that Government will invest \$50 million, including a \$16 million loan from the clearing banks, in housing over the next four years.

Mr Ingraham also disclosed that the development of Yellow Elder Gardens will be completed early next year and that two new subdivisions for New Providence are being planned to start in the near future.

The Minister told over 1,000 persons attending the third night of the week-long convention in the Polaris Hall of the Holiday Inn Hotel, that the first subdivision consists of 80 lots and an area for public rental apartments in the Yamacraw constituency off Prince Charles Drive.

He said the second is a larger subdivision, which will contain about 400 lots in the Gladstone Road area and if circumstances change, the Government will proceed with previously announced plans to develop a 50-lot subdivision on Cowpen Road in Bamboo Town and a 40-lot subdivision in the Baillou Hill constituency.

In his 36-page address, which ended the third night of the conclave, Mr Ingraham recalled that FNM Leader Kendal Isaacs said at an election rally last year that if his party won the government, \$40 million would have been made available for the financing of low cost homes.

"Knowing the Free National Movement, the money was presumably coming from some foreign source," Mr Ingraham told delegates and PLP supporters. "Mr Isaacs also promised that the monies would be lent out at an interest of 10 per

cent and repayable for a period of 20 years to low income persons."

"Well, Mr Isaacs and the Free National Movement's low cost housing money has not arrived to this date. In fact, we haven't heard a word about it since," the Minister said.

He said that Government is of the view that in a country like the Bahamas, sufficient internal savings may be generated to fund housing requirements and that only circumstances which may require external or foreign borrowings for housing may be the extent to which foreign currency is necessary and attributable to foreign purchases of building materials and supplies.

He then reported that negotiations with the clearing banks consisting of the Royal Bank of Canada, Barclays Bank International Limited, the Bank of Nova Scotia, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, the Chase Manhattan Bank, Citibank, NA, and the Bank of Montreal (Bahamas and Caribbean) Limited, have been successfully concluded.

"The Association of Clearing Banks will lend to the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation for onward lending to modest and medium income Bahamians a total of \$16 million over the next four years at an initial minimum interest rate of 9½ per cent per annum," Mr Ingraham told the convention.

He also advised that agreement in principle has been reached with the Bahamas Association of Life and Health insurers for a loan to the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation totalling \$10 million over the next four years at an interest rate and upon terms to be agreed.

Further, Mr Ingraham said, the National Insurance Board

will advance to the Mortgage Corporation up to \$24 million over the next four years for rehabilitation and other loans to low and modest income persons.

In addition, he said, Finance Corporation of the Bahamas and First Home Savings and Loans Limited, will lend a total of \$4 million in Government guaranteed mortgages to middle income Bahamians during 1984.

"Apart from this projected fifty million dollars investment in housing over the next four years, the national Insurance Board will make available on deposit to First Home Savings and Loans Limited, Barclays Finance Corporation (Bahamas) Limited and Finance Corporation of the Bahamas Limited, such sums as are necessary, not exceeding more than 10 per cent of their respective deposit liabilities for onward lending to would-be home owners," the Minister said.

He said that the PLP promised that if returned to power it would handle the housing problem and unlike the FNM, the PLP is talking about \$50 million generated from the "sweat of your labour and representing a portion of Bahamian savings."

"Our loans will be for periods of 20, 25 and 30 years and our interest rates will range from as low as 8½ per cent," Mr Ingraham said.

He said that while work on the various long-term programmes is proceeding, the Government is actively pursuing more immediate housing goals.

"The development of Yellow Elder Gardens will be completed early next year," he said. "Two new subdivisions for New Providence are being planned to commence in the near future."

"The first consists of 84 lots and an area for public rental apartments in the Yamacraw constituency off Prince Charles Drive. The second is a larger subdivision which will contain about 400 lots in the Gladstone Road area," Mr Ingraham said.

He added: "If circumstances change we will also proceed with our previous announced plans for the development of a 50 lot subdivision on Cowpen Road in the Bamboo Town constituency and a 40 lot subdivision in the Baillou Hill constituency."

He said that all of the above mentioned subdivisions will have larger lot sizes than in Yellow Elder Gardens together with houses of varying design, specifications and sizes.

According to the Minister, in Grand Bahama, four subdivisions are planned, the first in an area west of The Mall consisting of 38 lots. He said that the installation of water and electricity has been completed and the roads are presently being constructed.

"We expect to commence the construction of the 38 houses before the end of this year," the Minister said.

He said that the second subdivision, in the East Coral area of Freeport, consists of 376 lots, four parks and playgrounds and areas reserved for multi-family dwellings inclusive of public officer accommodation and multi-family dwellings.

The third subdivision, he said, consists of 114 serviced lots in the Bahamia Subdivision

in the Pine Ridge constituency in Freeport, which already has paved roads, electricity, water and telephone.

"We propose to sell sites and services in this subdivision to middle income Bahamians for the construction by them within an agreed period of time of single family owner occupied dwellings," Mr Ingraham said.

The Minister said that the fourth subdivision in Grand Bahama is being planned for the future in the Eight Mile Rock area in the constituency of West End and will consist of about 400 lots, parks and areas reserved for multi-family dwellings and community facilities.

"We will develop at least one

subdivision in the Family Islands next year," he added.

In addition, the Minister said, the Government will continue and indeed accelerate the provision of Government-guaranteed loans for the construction of single family owner occupied dwellings throughout New Providence and extend these facilities to Grand Bahama and the Family Islands in a meaningful way.

"We will also be continuing the construction of ownership housing on vacant lots in the Grants Town area and on scattered sites owned or to be purchased by the Government throughout New Providence," he said.

Pindling's Closing Address

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 29 Oct 83 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

PRIME Minister Pindling, in his first comments on Grenada since Tuesday's invasion by the US and six Caribbean states, told his party's 28th convention last night that the law of Grenada "speaks most eloquently" from the barrel of a soldier's gun.

But the Prime Minister, one of the Caribbean heads of government who met in an emergency summit in Trinidad last Saturday evening to discuss the military take-over in Grenada that preceded the invasion, did not mention the armed intervention in the sister Caribbean island.

He told delegates in his closing address to the five-day convention that Foreign Minister and Attorney General Paul Adderley had urged them to reject any superficial and simplistic solutions to serious problems.

"As he spoke, more tragic events were unfolding in Grenada, where almost four years ago, the Constitution and the Law were abrogated in the name of expediency, thereby smashing the democratic hopes and aspirations of a free and sovereign people," the Prime Minister said.

"Tonight," he declared, "the law of Grenada speaks most eloquently from the barrel of a

soldier's gun."

On October 19, the Grenadian Army, led by Army Chief General Hudson Austin, overthrew the socialist People's Revolutionary Government and killed Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, four Cabinet Ministers, two trade union leaders and several others before declaring a shoot-to-kill curfew.

The ouster of leftist Prime Minister Bishop, who led the March 13, 1979, revolution that overthrew former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy, now in exile in New York, followed a power struggle within the New Jewel Movement party between moderates led by Bishop and hardliners headed by Deputy

Prime Minister Bernard Coard.

On Tuesday, November 25, thousands of US and Caribbean troops invaded Grenada and fighting is still reported in the hills of the spice-growing nation.

The Bahamas, through Foreign Minister Paul Adderley, condemned the military invasion of Grenada at a meeting of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS).

The Prime Minister said that Government's move for grassroots economic progress will probably make a few Bay Street people tremble, and certainly will leave the majority of Bahamians humming.

He said that during the course of the week, the party crystalized its ideals and reshaped its plans for the reformation of the country's economic structure, which he announced in his first address officially opening the convention Monday night.

"We sought and we gained consensus on the solutions for new and not-so-new problems," the Prime Minister said. "We determined that it was our solemn duty to cling to our philosophy of lifting the common man from the gutter-most to the uttermost."

He said that in his address, Mr Adderley traced the "rancid, rank and recondite NBC caper to petty minds operating both from inside and outside the Bahamas.

"Because these people are evil purveyors of lies and because we cannot be sure to what extent they will go to achieve their objective, we were urged to be vigilant," he said.

"We were urged to reject superficial and simplistic solutions to serious problems," he said. "We were urged to reject the misguided call for Bahamians to blur their vision, trim their convictions and prostitute their sovereignty."

He said that Economics Minister Alfred Maycock's task will be to bring the Free Trade Zone from the ground-breaking stage to the door opening stage for it is then when the new and additional job opportunities in manufacturing, processing, assembling, packaging, data-processing, warehousing and shipping, will become available.

"The new Free Trade Zone is an excellent opportunity with tremendous incentives in a conducive environment," he said, adding that parliamentarians, educators and parents must now begin to identify young Bahamians who show the most promise of succeeding as employees of the Zone.

"But lazy, tardy, rude or incompetent young people will not be offered employment in the Zone, no matter how long their mamas and daddies were PLPs," he warned. "This opportunity is for serious, mature young people who are willing to learn and are prepared to work."

He said that 1983 promises to be the country's biggest year ever, both in terms of visitor arrivals and income for Bahamians.

"Despite a worldwide recession, despite escalating world-wide inflation, despite worrisome unemployment almost everywhere, despite NBC, despite THE TRIBUNE, despite the FNM, despite everything, is it not heartening to know that by the end of this year, over two million visitors will have found out for themselves that what they heard is true: it is better in the Bahamas," he said.

PLP Officers

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 29 Oct 83 p 1

[Text]

PLP National Chairman Brenville Hanna early Friday morning retained his post with a 245-157 victory over lawyer Sean McWeeney.

The contest for the chairmanship, which Mr Hanna has held for one year, was a two-way fight between the incumbent and Mr McWeeney, who led a students movement in the late 1970s.

According to reports, Mr McWeeney was backed in his bid to topple Mr Hanna by former PLP Chairman Senator

Andrew "Dud" Maynard, who recommended Mr Hanna for the post after Mr Maynard stepped down last year.

Also during the voting for election of officers for the party at its 28th annual convention, Irrington "Minky" Isaacs ousted first vice chairman Fernley Palmer, a building contractor, by 234 to 168 votes.

Mr Isaacs, aviation executive, lost his post as second vice chairman of the PLP last year to Mr Charles Major Jr.

Party Chairman's Message

Nassau THE HERALD in English 4 Nov 83 p 1

[Message from Brenville Hanna, PLP chairman]

[Text] My brothers and sisters, our party has just completed its 28th annual convention. This comes at a particularly significant time for us as our nation just recently celebrated its first decade of independence and our party has been functioning for the betterment of the Bahamian masses for three decades.

Our Prime Minister and leader the Right Honourable Sir Lynden Pindling, said that now begins the task of creating more economic power for us, and he has asked that the party be notified of the professions of those of us who want to be included in this bold and ambitious step. Our Leader's call is indeed

a timely one, for our party has already secured political power and social freedom for the masses. All that now remains is for us to win the kind of economic power that members of the UBP/FNM enjoy. There is no doubt that this would come to fruition. Our Party's record of achievement in the aforementioned areas serves as an assurance of this. Step by step it will be achieved.

There still remains, however, the important task of increasing our support among the electorate in New Providence, Grand Bahama and the other Family Islands. To this end the officers of the PLP and myself will resume the visits to the Family Islands, which we began in my first term as your Chairman last year. During that time we were first-hand witnesses to the difficulties our supporters in the Family Islands face and were, therefore, better able to analyse those problems and find their solutions.

We will also continue our work in the various constituencies in New Providence, concentrating especially on those constituencies where our party's candidates were unsuccessful in last year's General Elections. As our leader reminded us just a short while ago, we should have never lost those constituencies in the first place. With the support of every single PLP in New Providence we can all rest assured that we shall regain them whenever another General Election is called.

We must remain even more vigilant than before as we have already seen that the evil forces in and outside of our beloved country would wish to destroy what our party has already won for the Bahamian people. They are working every day to ensure their success. To date they have been unsuccessful and they will continue to fail. There is one simple but important edge our PLP holds: adversity only serves to draw us closer together and to strengthen our resolve in continuing to uphold the lofty ideals and diligent work the masses are accustomed to expecting from us.

May God continue to guide us in one effort as we continue to fight for the greater betterment of the Bahamian masses. PLP all the way.

CSO: 3298/260

FNM CRITICIZES PINDLING PROPOSAL FOR PLP 'REGISTER'

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 2 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

THE OPPOSITION Free National Movement harshly criticised Prime Minister Pindling today on his "shocking announcement" that "a PLP register of business and skills" was being compiled.

Sir Lynden told his party's Convention last week that the information about PLP job skills needed to be made available, particularly to Ministers and Permanent Secretaries.

And, the FNM warned, this "shocking" announcement "has further exposed a dangerous state of mind which has developed in that party and...is bound to cause further resentment and bitterness in the Bahamian society."

The FNM also reacted sharply to Transport Minister Philip Bethel's declaration that "God gave this land to the PLP!" Mr Bethel made his statement at the Convention following the Prime Minister's announcement.

A statement released by the Opposition today said that Mr Bethel's "incredible" declaration is another example of the "severe collective aberration which afflicts the governing party."

"It is abundantly clear that the PLP intends to intensify the highly provocative campaign of discrimination and victimization which it has been carrying on against members and supporters

of the Free National Movement. Sir Lynden clearly implied that this systematic discrimination will be put into effect in the hiring and business practice of the new Cable Beach Hotel," the FNM charged.

It "utterly condemned this madness" and called upon community leaders and well-thinking Bahamians of whatever political persuasion to speak out against it.

"We urge whatever sober elements there are in the governing party to exert their influence on the leadership of the PLP in an effort to put an end to this undemocratic, spiteful and ungodly scheme," the FNM said.

"We ask Sir Lynden and his Government to consider carefully what mischief they are unleashing in the Bahamian society which already has more than its share of strife. We warn them that the FNM and its supporters will respond to this attack on their equality as Bahamian citizens with all the strength and resources at our command. We simply will not tolerate it."

The FNM said it had been informed prior to Sir Lynden's speech that there was already a discriminatory system in place in hiring at the new hotel and that a number of job applicants were being questioned about their political allegiances.

"This is an outrage and a brazen attempt to violate the rights of Bahamians to associate freely in any political party of their choice," the FNM warned.

It said the foreign management, which has the contract to operate the new hotel, is from a society in which the ordinary principles of democracy and individual rights are not unknown, therefore, the FNM expects them to adhere to these same principles in the Bahamas.

The FNM urged any persons who have been discriminated against or whose rights have been infringed upon at the new hotel, or at any Government or public corporation job site, to report the matter to their trade unions, to the FNM, to the newspapers or to seek legal advice.

"The flimsy excuse given by the Prime Minister that the Opposition has questioned the wisdom of Government's heavy borrowing to build the Cable Beach Hotel and to take over other hotels is totally unacceptable," the FNM said.

It pointed out that it is Government that has in fact put the public in debt and, that being the case, "every Bahamian taxpayer is responsible for the debt whether such taxpayer is PLP, FNM or otherwise."

"The money spent by the Government does not belong to the PLP, but to all the Bahamian people. Every Bahamian, regardless of political persuasion, is entitled to equal consideration based only on qualification for employment at the Cable Beach Hotel or on any other job site directly or indirectly controlled by the Government," the FNM said.

CSO: 3298/261

FNM RALLY HEARS CONDEMNATION OF PLP, CALL TO BATTLE

Isaacs Attack on PLP

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 5 Nov 83 pp 1, 5

[Article by Colin Higgins]

[Text] Kendal Isaacs, leader of the opposition Free National Movement, told supporters at a "Report to the People" rally last night that he would not be surprised if the whole Government collapsed and the Prime Minister had to advise the Governor-General to dissolve the House and call an election.

Addressing unregistered voters, he said: "If you've got the interests of this country, the interests of the Free National Movement at heart, go out on Monday and register."

The party leader told the enthusiastic crowd gathered at R. M. Bailey playing field: "We do not know--and I don't want to be an alarmist--we don't know whether the conditions in the country today are such that it's going to force the Prime Minister and his Government to collapse, because they are so busy running here and there trying to put defences even when they're not accused, that the government of this country is being neglected... neglected in a very, very sorrowful way."

The PLP Government is on the run, Mr Isaacs said. "They are falling apart and quite rightly so. But they are not going to give the government to us. They have had so much sweetness that they intend to hold on to that government as long as they possibly can."

"We are going to have to take it from them, and I use that expression although Paul Adderley accused me of trying to spread revolution," Mr Isaacs said. "When I say we have to take it, I mean we have to take it through the ballot box!"

Mr Isaacs told his audience as he began his address: "I want to tell you again this evening what the real issues are today, what we of the Free National Movement intend to do about the conditions in this country that have been brought about by a wicked, incompetent and corrupt PLP."

He wanted the people to know, he said, what the FNM will do, "not if, but when we become the Government.

"Now let's make no mistake, the most serious problem that we are facing in the Bahamas today is this question of unemployment. Unemployment is so serious today that--I would say for the last two years at least--the PLP have refused to even publish any statistics as to how many people, old and young or middle-aged, are actually unemployed."

The speaker went on: "So many of us are prepared to take it, but I know that we of the FNM have had enough of that. And we will demand to be given this information and if we're not given the information then we will put the worst interpretation on their lack of information."

Mr Isaacs estimated that between 20 to 30 per cent of Bahamians are out of work and that among teenagers the percentage is higher.

"Now in the United States, and in Europe, when that unemployment rate got as high as 10 percent, the country was in a state of shock. It was a crisis situation when you have 10 percent of your people unemployed, but we now have at least 30 percent of our people unemployed and the PLP are unable to do anything about it.

"They don't care to do anything about it because all they are concerned about is Dopegate and lining their own pockets and to hell with the rest of the people of the Bahamas!"

The speaker said the Bahamas depends on investment. "That investment will have to be local investment as well as foreign investment. Bahamians do not have sufficient capital to finance the projects which are necessary to put all our Bahamians to work."

At times, he said, the PLP say that the FNM want to sell the country out to the Americans. "But in the next breath, they will admit that we need that money from the United States. The Prime Minister, the Minister of Tourism, all the ministers of Government go to the United States and try to bring the monied people to the Bahamas to invest their money."

In order to have investment, be it foreign or local, "these investors have got to have confidence, confidence in the state of affairs in the Bahamas and especially in the Government of the Bahamas.

"The way the PLP have been carrying on," Mr Isaacs said, "not only do the foreign investors not have this confidence, but the local Bahamians don't really have the confidence because the rules of the PLP Government change from day to day and in some cases from hour to hour."

He continued: "If you thought for a minute that your money was gonna be safe and you were not a high ranking PLP then you would know what the situation was when you heard the Prime Minister at the convention say that PLP's were going to be given jobs, PLP's were going to be given investment opportunities. They were even going to prepare a register."

Mr Isaacs estimated that more than 50 percent of the people of the Bahamas support the FNM and asked: "If you are going to try to exclude 50 percent of your people, put them outside the mainstream of the economy, how in the world do you expect that economy to prosper?"

He then quoted from an article on the recent address to members of the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce by New York lawyer Sidney Pine: "'Political stability is perhaps the single most important requirement in making an investment decision.' Mr Pine said no rational or experienced businessman would consider making an important investment in a country in political turmoil or faced with a possible overthrow of its government.

"...The charge to destabilise the country and overthrow its Government without identifying the co-conspirators or citing the evidence of the conspiracy is frightening and could stem the flow of investment from these very large and reputable US companies and individuals."

Mr Isaacs explained the excerpt and went on: "You know who's making those statements that Mr Pine was talking about? The Attorney General! Paul Adderley!

"Paul Adderley has done more harm by his rash statements than any single person."

Stating that governments do not know how to run businesses, the speaker said: "Every one of our hotels, every Government-owned project is losing money today... What we should have done with the Cable Beach Hotel, with all the other Government hotels, is inspire confidence in investors so that they would have put up their money and bought those hotels and operated those hotels, instead of having the Government put up over \$100 million of public money to build that hotel and then to pay interest amounting to anything like \$20 million a year on a losing project."

If that money was spent on housing, on putting in the infrastructure necessary for agriculture and fishing, the speaker said, "then we could have employed thousands and thousands of people and we would have had the hotels because the investors would have had confidence, they would have put their money into the hotels and we could have put our money into other projects that would have caused employment amongst our people."

Mr Isaacs also spoke out against what he felt was an educational system that failed to fit persons for work in the Bahamas.

On another point, he said: "If anything is wrong in the country you got to go to the top because they are the ones in charge. And if this country is suffering, if the economy is suffering then you go to the Prime Minister and his Government because they are the ones responsible, not middle management, not the trade unions.

"And I would hope, because I have a lot of confidence in the people who make up the Chamber of Chamber [as published], I would only hope that they,

sooner or later, will have the courage to lay the blame where it belongs, and that is with the Prime Minister in particular and his Government in general."

Mr Isaacs ended by calling on followers to keep the faith, to spread the gospel according to the FNM and to convert the PLP to the Free National Movement.

Bostwick Call to Action

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 5 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by Colin Higgins]

[Text]

SENATE Opposition Leader Henry Bostwick told a Free National Movement rally last night that "unless we are now prepared to fight fire with fire, we are not going to succeed," and he asserted that FNM's must be fully committed because they are fighting an enemy that means to destroy them and has told them so "in no uncertain terms."

"We are in a position where all we have to do is stand our ground," the speaker told listeners at the FNM 'Report to the People' rally at the R M Bailey playing field.

"Stand our ground, get our programme together and be ready to govern this country, because it's ours."

The people who are going to take it from Prime Minister Pindling are the people who are close to him, said Mr Bostwick, and those are the people who he has offended over the years.

"There are too many people close to Pindling, who know the truth about Pindling and who Pindling can't trust to talk the truth," he claimed.

"They are all in there together," he said, "and they are now fighting amongst each other and accusing each other. They are gonna destroy themselves from within!"

"FNM's, all we have to do is keep our heads, get our programme together, get ready to govern this country, so that when the time comes, and it ain't far, we can then begin the forward march together, altogether, in the FNM."

Mr Bostwick told supporters: "The other day somebody throw a big stone through the glass window in my wife's headquarters." Mrs Janet Bostwick is the FNM representative for Yamacraw.

"I believe that headquarters

is a pain in the you-know-where to the PLP," the speaker said.

"They pass there in the day, it pretty, they pass there in the night, it pretty. And that torch always burning in Yamacraw."

"And somebody, it could only be a PLP, throw a big stone right at the picture of Mr Kendal Isaacs that was in the window, and busted the window."

Mr Bostwick, in a stern tone, continued: "Now I said then, and I mean it now, and I want this to get back to the PLP, and I want it understood in no uncertain terms, that it was my position then, it is my position now, when that stone was thrown through that window, the next night, two stones would have been thrown through two PLP headquarters' windows."

"That is the only thing they understand, apparently," Mr Bostwick said. "I am finished with being Mr Nice Guy with the PLP. And I want them to know that I am very serious about what I say... When the PLP kick me again, I gon kick back and I gon kick them harder than they kick me! There's no more backing up, as far as I am concerned."

GRENADA ISSUE CONTINUES TO SPARK REACTION, CRITICISM

Vanguard Attack on U.S.

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 4 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] The Vanguard Nationalist & Socialist Party today broke its silence on the Grenada issue and strongly condemned the American invasion of the island, calling it "an act of naked aggression and imperialism." There was reason to believe, said the party, that the US is becoming an "international outlaw."

At a press conference today, Vanguard leader Dr John McCartney compared the American invasion to "slave traders who told the slaves they were offering them a better life by enslaving them; and the Japanese and German imperialists of World War Two who tried to convince the world that their systems of domination were co-prosperity spheres."

The Vanguard Party's condemnation of the American invasion of Grenada comes twenty four hours after a resolution calling for the immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Grenada was overwhelmingly approved by the United Nations General Assembly. The Bahamas voted for the resolution.

"It should be noted that the vast majority of the world's nations condemned the American action, including Britain, Canada, France, the USSR, and our own government of the Bahamas," Dr McCartney said. "Such condemnation is proof enough of this policy, and Reagan should realize that he is fooling no one. The vote in the United Nations General Assembly on November 3, which demanded the USA withdraw from Grenada, is further proof of the world's opprobrium for that nation's Caribbean adventure. In many respects, the United States is becoming an international outlaw."

It is not often that the Vanguard agrees with a stand taken by the ruling Progressive Liberal Party. On this particular issue, however, the two parties are on the same side of the street.

"The Vanguard Party would like to point out that although we have many major differences with the Progressive Liberal Party we must commend it on its progressive international stand on the Grenadian issue," Dr McCartney said. "This stands in stark contrast to the position taken by the Free

National Movement which applauded this disgraceful act of inhumanity. As a result of this stand, that right wing party puts itself in the same camp as a country like racist South Africa, which is among the few countries in the world which supported the invasion."

The Vanguard Party accused the United States of "violating all the rules of international law" in its invasion of Grenada, and of "making a mockery of the concept of national sovereignty." They say the US broke the elementary rules of international law regarding the recognition of states; the UN Charter; and violated the charter of the Organisation of the American States.

"It is apparent that the USA used the death of socialist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, whom they hated in life, as a pretext for the brutal invasion of Grenada," Dr McCartney concluded. "This invasion, in its turn, is a dress rehearsal for planned invasions of Nicaragua and Cuba, which are also seen by the USA as 'Communist satellites' and 'threats to stability' in its own backyard."

"America is now an openly imperialist power that is hell bent on dominating the globe. We would like to warn them that though the Bahamian people want to be friends with them, we will never allow them to make us slaves."

Foulkes Warning

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 7 Nov 83 pp 1, 5

[Article by Colin Higgins]

[Text]

SIR ERIC Garry was properly elected but subverted the Parliamentary system while he was in power, ENM representative for Blue Hills, Arthur Foulkes, told a 'Report to the People' rally Friday night. And he asserted: "That is exactly what is happening here."

"The PIP have been subverting the Parliamentary system and that is what led to the revolution in Grenada in the first place!"

The MP devoted his address at the R M Bailey playing field to the situation in Grenada and outlined developments leading up to the recent ousting of its military leaders by a "rescue" operation of US and Caribbean forces.

He commented on a press conference held by the local

Vanguard Nationalist and Socialist Party.

"I saw tonight Dr McCartney with so much time on television. Our leader, who is the official constitutional leader of the opposition, does not get that kind of time when he holds a press conference!"

It is interesting, he said, that the PIP and the Vanguard are going in the same direction on the issue of Grenada.

"I said this a long time ago, if this country goes Communist, it's not gon' be John McCartney. He's a babe in the woods."

"It is Pindling and Hanna that have been gradually taking us in that direction," he said.

"I thought perhaps the other day things were getting so hot, I thought Mr Pindling was get

ting ready to send the Bahamas Defence Force to invade Miami. I even had visions of Arthur Hanna standing out on the beach there taking the salute as the boats sailed off to go to Biscayne Bay," Mr Foulkes joked.

"That was the kind of rhetoric we were hearing from them. Strong anti-American rhetoric." He said Attorney General/Minister of External Affairs Paul Adderley had been condemning America and talking about "conspiracy."

"And challenging President Reagan: 'He doesn't have the courage to answer our Prime Minister, because he knows it is lies!' I said to myself, 'My God, you mean to tell me these people are really gon' lead the Bahamas into a direct confrontation with the United States?'"

In terms of international power and military power, Mr Foulkes told listeners, the Bahamas is a baby. "and our whole security and our prosperity depends, whether we like it or not, on the United States of America primarily."

"And those who don't want to understand that and those who want to lead us in another direction are only spelling out doom for this country."

He described Grenadians as very much like Bahamians. "They have a Parliamentary tradition, they believe in changing governments by the ballot not by the bullet. They believe in peace and tranquility not in revolution and terror and murder and mayhem."

"Gairy became a dictator," the speaker told the crowd, "and he started to talk all kinds of foolishness about flying objects and nonsense like that. And obeah, does that remind you of anything? And voodoo. And he was a disgrace to his country, so Maurice Bishop decided that he was gon' take over the country by force and that is exactly what happened."

But Maurice Bishop did not subsequently hold elections to let the Grenadian people decide who they wanted to govern them, continued Mr Foulkes.

"He invited the Russians, the Cubans, the Bulgarians, the North Koreans, the Libyans, the East Germans, all of them in the hundreds, into Grenada to set up a base for the exportation of revolution and terror in the Caribbean," said the parliamentarian.

The people of Grenada had no voice and never approved of what was going on, he continued. "The people of Grenada were crying out for somebody to deliver them!"

It was in response to that cry that America and several Caribbean nations mounted a "rescue operation," the speaker told the applauding crowd.

"And it didn't take the FNM long to understand and to see what was going on. And we did not lack the courage to say 'Yes we approve of that.' Because if the same thing happened here and we were sweating and toiling under a dictatorship, and if the Cubans and the Russians were running my life, I would want the Americans to come and rescue me."

Western civilization and western democracy, which has been the pride of human history up to now, is under attack, the speaker said. "It is under attack by these people who call themselves socialists, but who

are not really socialists." Mr Foulkes described what he called an international conspiracy with headquarters in Moscow and regional headquarters in Havana.

He reminded listeners of the sinking of the Bahamian patrol vessel 'Flamingo' by Cuban fighter jets and of the US jets which warned off Cuban fighter craft from Ragged Island. He said it is comforting to know that if what happened in Grenada happens here, America will say: "Let us go and deliver the Bahamian people because we know they love democracy."

Isaacs Blast at Adderley

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 17 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text] Instead of appearing to give solace to the Communists, the Leader of the Opposition said today that Government should be "lending its support to a speedy return to democracy and normality in Grenada."

Responding to a statement made by Foreign Affairs Minister Paul Adderley in Washington yesterday, Free National Movement leader Kendal Isaacs said that in the circumstances prevailing in Grenada at this time, the Governor-General "more than anyone else" has the authority to assume the reins of Government.

"Rather than ranting and raving about the situation and appearing to give solace and support to the Communists, and thereby contributing to the deterioration of our relations with traditional friends, our Government should be lending its support to a speedy return to democracy and normality," he said.

Mr Adderley told the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) yesterday that the Bahamas rejects the constitutional authority assumed by Grenada's Governor-General, Sir Paul Scoon, in the aftermath of last-month's US military intervention on the former leftist-ruled Caribbean island. Sir Paul, now the only constitutional authority on the island, has appointed an interim administration to run Grenada until general elections, slated for next year, are held.

Mr Adderley also called for the prompt withdrawal of all foreign forces from Grenada--a stand different from the one taken earlier this month by Education Minister Darrell Rolle. Mr Rolle told the 22nd session of the general conference of UNESCO in Paris that the Bahamas "hoped that a Commonwealth security force will soon be established on the island so that the people of Grenada could set about the restructuring of their country."

Mr Isaacs today supported the constitutional authority of Sir Paul, saying that neither Bernard Coard nor General Hudson Austin, the two men blamed for the violent overthrow and death of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, had such authority.

He pointed out that there was a defence treaty between Grenada and some of its sister states in the Eastern Caribbean, and to the fact that Dominican Prime Minister Eugenia Charles stated that Sir Paul requested assistance and help was given.

"It is admitted that the people of Grenada support the intervention and certainly did not support Coard and Austin together with their Communist friends," Mr Isaacs said.

An attempt is now being made to return Grenada to the parliamentary democracy it was before Bishop seized power from the repressive right-wing Prime Minister, Sir Eric Gairy.

However, Mr Isaacs warned that the Eastern Caribbean states and the US must heed the warning given by Mr Alister Hughes, Grenadian newspaper editor recently released from detention.

Mr Hughes said: "In the weeks immediately ahead, Americans must realize that our spontaneous expression of joy upon being saved cannot be sustained indefinitely...the GIs who now float on a comfortable cloud of acceptance as our rescuers may find themselves rejected as invaders."

Mr Isaacs said, "Let the Bahamas do all within its power to assist the Governor-General and the interim Government of Grenada in their efforts to return Grenada to its former status of a parliamentary democracy."

CSO: 3298/259

DRUGS ISSUE: FNM PREPARES 'NO CONFIDENCE' MOTION

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 10 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

OFFICIAL Opposition leader Kendal Isaacs last night gave notice that he will move for a resolution of no-confidence in the Prime Minister when the House of Assembly meets December 7.

Ignoring snickers and shouts from PLP members, Mr Isaacs told the House that among other things, Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling and some of his Ministers have not responded satisfactorily to charges of complicity in drug trafficking made over NBC Nightly News September 5. Sir Lynden was not in the House for Mr Isaacs' resolution.

The Opposition resolution also accuses Minister of Youth, Sports and Community Affairs Kendal Nottage for saying in a public speech broadcast over radio and television that the Bahamian people should not mind "whether I work for my money or thief it," or words to that effect.

Mr Isaacs read the resolution just before the House adjourned shortly before 6 pm yesterday to resume 10.30 am December 7.

The resolution says that Sir Lynden and his Cabinet have "failed to carry out their responsibilities in a satisfactory manner and, as a result of their failure; the peace and security of the Bahamas are threatened,

unemployment is at an unacceptably high level and the physical infrastructure of the country has not been sufficiently developed and has in many areas deteriorated."

The resolution also says that "our democratic institutions have fallen into disrepute, individual rights have been violated, our relations with traditional friends have deteriorated and prospects for future prosperity are dim."

Sir Lynden and his Cabinet have failed specifically to prosecute as vigorously as possible the fight against drug trafficking, Mr Isaacs said.

He said the conduct of Mr Nottage "as described by himself" in the matter of Columbus Trust Ltd, was not becoming of a Cabinet Minister.

The resolution says that Sir Lynden, his Cabinet, and particularly Foreign Affairs Minister Paul Adderley, "have conducted the foreign affairs of the Bahamas in a reckless and undiplomatic manner and have endangered the good relations which we have enjoyed with our traditional friends, the United States of America, and our sister Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean."

Government Members shouted in anger when Mr Isaacs said that the Pindling

Administration failed to support the American invasion of Grenada "which was designed to restore democracy and good order to that country and maintain the peace, security and democratic traditions of the Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean."

"Oh, dear! Oh, dear!" Rock Sound MP James Moultrie angrily mocked, while other Members growled "ahh-h" and made other noises to show their disgust.

Sir Lynden and his Cabinet were also criticised for allowing the national radio and television station to be "ruthlessly exploited and subverted to the almost exclusive political use of the Progressive Liberal Party."

The resolution singled out Sir Lynden for his statement to the PLP Convention two weeks ago that "A PLP register of business skills" was being compiled and will be made available to Ministers and Permanent Secretaries."

Sir Lynden told the Convention that while their political opponents has "made sport" of the Cable Beach Hotel project, "it is only fair therefore that those of you who bore the heat of the day and fought for this project should share in it, work in it and protect it from the vandals who never wished to see it succeed."

The Opposition resolution also accused the Prime Minister and his Cabinet of failing "to implement a system of local government" in the Bahamas

BLACKOUTS MARK BEC LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTE

BEC Statement

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 28 Oct 83 p 1

[Article by Marcia Bethell]

[Excerpts] With BEC management and union officials deadlocked in negotiations over a pay increase, the problems of island-wide power failures are getting worse and there is no sign of an end to the industrial action.

Chief Distribution Engineer Freeman Duncanson reported today that six areas in New Providence are now without power, and BEC has received complaints from 45 individual consumers suffering from power cuts.

In a release issued late last night, BEC General Manager Peter Bethel made the following statement:

"The public is aware of the present dispute between the Bahamas Electricity Corporation and the Bahamas Electrical Workers Union over terms for a new contract. Since the 27th September, members of the BEWU bargaining unit have engaged in disruptive activities which have caused lengthy outages to consumers in New Providence. The negotiations have now reached a deadlock and there is no sign of any cessation of the industrial action.

"Therefore BEC wants the public to know the facts.

"(1) BEC has offered the union an overall salary, wage, and benefits package amounting to an increase of \$7.9 million over a three year period. It includes:

"(a) Increase in wages and salaries of 30 percent of present levels for all employees.

"(b) A further allocation of 2 percent of present wages and salaries for any adjustments called for by a Salary Administration Study to take place shortly.

"(c) Improvement in other conditions of service such as reduced hours of work, increased Christmas bonus, increased vacation leave, improved Medical and Life Insurance plan, etc.

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"(2) In a separate negotiation recently concluded, BEC has agreed to provide additional pension benefits which will cost an additional \$3.6 million for these employees over the next three years.

"(3) Thus the total increase offered is \$11.5 million over three years. This averages \$19,000 per employee. Taken all together the increase in salaries, wages and benefits in the third year would be 52 percent more than at present.

"(4) How does the 30 percent increase in wages and salaries offered compare with the rate of inflation? Very well. The year-on-year increase in the Retail Price Index for August, 1983 was 3.51 percent. Forecasts of the inflation rate for the United States, which the Bahamas rate follows closely, are in the region of 6 percent for 1984.

"(5) Has there been the increase in productivity to justify larger increases in wages and salaries? No. The cost of wages and salaries for employees in the BEWU bargaining unit for each unit of electricity sold to consumers has increased by 54 percent over the last three years, much faster than the rate of inflation.

"(6) The package of salary and benefits offered to the Union gives the BEC employee financial conditions comparable or superior to his counterpart in almost any area of the community, including the public service and public corporations.

"(7) What more does the Union want? The Union is asking for increases in wages, salaries and other benefits which will cost a further \$3 million beyond what has been offered. BEC cannot pay this without dipping heavily into funds which the Corporation feels should go towards reducing electricity rates. BEC has recently installed more efficient generating plant for the purpose of reducing its operating costs. Some of the savings generated by this investment can be used to provide better salaries and working conditions for employees. But BEC feels that some of it should go to consumers by means of a reduction in the electricity rates. Such a reduction would benefit individuals, businesses and the economy of the country. However, if BEC has to fund unreasonable increased payroll costs there is that much less money for a rate reduction."

Union Denial of Sabotage

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 29 Oct 83 p 1

[Article by Marcia Bethell]

[Text] The Bahamas Electrical Workers Union, deadlocked in dispute with management over a new industrial agreement, today denied allegations of sabotaging electrical cables and called management's statements a "bunch of half truths, deliberately concocted to mislead the public and play on their emotions."

In a statement today union said that the industrial matter has been referred to the Industrial Relations Board for resolution, and a strike may be imminent. However, the strike will not be called if management used sound judgment.

The BEWU said they have carefully noted that whenever there is a dispute between the Corporation and the union, management always runs to the press with "their wild claims of sabotage," which they have failed to substantiate.

"We have requested that management prove their claims. This they have not been able to do. The BEWU has not been engaged in disruptive activities. Our members are performing their normal tour of duty. We do not have any control over rain, thunder and lightning storms. If they can control nature, then we will appreciate if they will do so," the release stated. Following is the text of the union's statement:

"We wish the public to know that just recently, management has received a 29 percent salary increase compounded, which is equal to 33 percent over a three year period. They have also received a \$1,200 lump sum as housing allowance; car allowance for their private motor vehicle, which is equal to \$200-\$300 for use of their vehicle; telephone allowance; free maintenance and gasoline for their cars. These are the very same people who receive training from the Corporation's funds and during such training, their salaries are deposited to their bank account in the Bahamas while they receive special allowances and tuition fee abroad.

"After the training of these people, they are placed in a salary scale that ranges between \$24,000 and \$55,000 per annum as well as other fringe benefits and are given the authority and prerogative to handle the affairs of BEC without being questioned.

"These same persons, who receive the very best that the Corporation and the country has to offer, are the ill advisers to the administrators and the most blatant oppressors of the unfortunate masses of BEC staff and the public in general.

"Management are claiming that productivity of the workers has been reduced. The union feels that 'paper administrators and engineers' are mainly accountable for this in BEC. They have never produced half of what is expected from them. They are the ones who continuously enjoy the comfort and luxuries of an air-conditioned office and are not subject to serious injuries on the job. The general public and the community at large are quite aware of the many fatal accidents and the number of maimed employees that have occurred in BEC over the years and never at anytime was any of these employees in management category.

"They do not perform these tedious and hazardous jobs. They are usually hidden in the background when giving directions.

"In regard to the pension scheme, which has only recently been approved, after being outstanding for a number of years and has been enjoyed by employees of other Government Corporations. This should not have been a part or parcel of the current negotiations. The fact that there are over \$6 million being held in trust by Bahamas International Trust Company and Imperial Life Assurance Company, which will go to help defray the cost of a New Pension Scheme. This amount could have easily been doubled if it was not for the poor, callous and devious administration of the old pension scheme. The new pension scheme is for all employees of the Corporation and not merely the members of the bargaining unit of the BEWU. It might be of interest to the public to know that the \$3.6 million mentioned for the Pension Scheme will cover all employees from the manager, who will derive the most benefit out of this situation, to the labourer, who will get the least benefit.

"The Corporation claims that it has offered 30 percent increase on salaries and wages, which is totally unacceptable at this time. The application of this 30 percent is as follows:

"10 percent effective May 1, 1983 on salary as at April 30, 1983. 10 percent effective May 1, 1984 on salary as at April 30, 1983. And 10 percent effective May 1, 1985 on salary as at April 30, 1983.

"This is equivalent to approximately 26 percent over three years. This offer includes a cost of living clause with a threshold of 6 percent that would subject employees to a maximum of 4.5 percent increase on their basic salary or wage if the cost of living exceeds 10.5 percent over the previous year.

"For years employees have been absorbing the cost of living losses, because of the same method of percentage increases being offered to the workers by management, while management themselves have always received their increases compounded which has led to a complete disparity in the salary/wage BEC salary ladder. Our salaries range from \$8,000 to \$18,000 per annum. Some years ago, a system of salary administration was recommended by Peat Marwick, Mitchell & Company. This recommendation had established salary groups 1-20 with a disparity of a maximum of \$1,600 in each group. It is obviously clear that the disparity for management grouping has increased tremendously over the regrouping represented by the union. This will show why the 2 percent offered by management to deal with the New Salary Administration Studies will not be acceptable to the workers. Our contention is that Management over the years have been very good, but "good for nothing" as they have made themselves wealthy while the workers continue to live from "day to day" or from hand to mouth.

"The employees of the Corporation are committed and are in total agreement to a reduction of electricity costs to the public, but will not be prepared to do so at the expense of lower income employees of the Corporation. We all realize that electricity has been very high, due to the enormous wastage of millions of barrels of oil at the Blue Hills Power Station, which costs millions of dollars.

"It is also true, that if Management was able to collect the millions of dollars from electricity bills which are outstanding, there is no doubt that they will be in a better position to pay their employees."

Work Stoppage

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 4 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

ABOUT 500 Bahamas Electricity Corporation employees took part in a work-stoppage this morning, intensifying their industrial action against management for higher wages.

The Electrical Workers Union informed BEC general manager Peter Bethel by letter yesterday that its members would be sitting-in this morning waiting for him to visit five stations. The letter instructed Mr Bethel to visit the various stations at one-hour intervals, starting with the Bay Street compound at 9 am and ending at Clifton Pier "not later than 1 pm." Mr Bethel did not respond to the demands.

In the meantime, work to restore electricity to Paradise Island, which lost power at 4 am Monday when a feeder mysteriously faulted, was at a standstill. A consumer from Boyd Subdivision complained today that she hasn't had power for one week.

"We can't do any work. The few repairs we were able to do when (the workers) were going slow, we can't do now," chief distribution engineer Freeman Duncanson said.

Mr Duncanson said there are also over 65 consumers in Nassau who are without electricity.

"The Corporation's image has been tarnished. The Corporation is one of those utilities which is well known for its quality and promptness of service. Both the quality and promptness of service have suffered," he complained.

He said the blackouts were having a very serious impact on BEC "in that many of the large consumers on Paradise Island are on their stand-by facilities which means that units that the

Corporation would have sold to the establishments are not being sold."

Union president Reginald Forbes said he was sorry about the adverse impact the blackout is having on tourism at Paradise Island. Holiday Inn complained that it is losing most of its incoming guests to hotels with electricity.

"I feel very, very badly about that, owing to the fact that we all have to live in this country and tourism is our bread and butter. But, you've still got to fight for your rights. I pray that this situation will soon be over and things will be normal again," said Mr Forbes.

Union and management are still deadlocked in negotiations over a wage increase. The union is asking for a 32 per cent compounded increase over a three-year period. Management has offered a straight 30 per cent raise.

Mr Forbes said that the 30 per cent increase would not keep pace with the cost of living.

Acting secretary-general of the union Alvin Sargent asked Mr Bethel by letter to visit five stations this morning to explain the contents of managements final salary offer and the new clauses it wants to include in a new labour contract.

Mr Sargent also requested that "all letters of threats and intimidation be withdrawn" and that "instructions issued to senior staff and supervisors to take disciplinary action against union members be recalled."

Mr Forbes produced what he called an "intimidating" letter to a supervisor signed by Mr Duncanson. The letter rebuked the supervisor for refusing to give a detailed report on several

jobs, but made no threat of disciplinary action.

Mr Forbes also claimed that BEC management is intimidating workers for refusing to work overtime. He denied that union members are on a go-slow. He said they are working to rule (refusing to work on lunch hours or overtime).

"What the union calls intimidation is merely a request by the management that the people co-operate in trying to get consumers back on supply," Mr Duncanson said. "We can't make them do anything. We can only ask."

He apologised to consumers on behalf of BEC "for the kind of service that they're getting these days."

"I do hope the matter will be resolved shortly so that we can give them the high standard of service to which they have become accustomed," he said.

HERALD Evaluation

Nassau THE HERALD in English 4 Nov 83 p 3

[Editorial: "Darkness Again!"]

[Text] Once again various areas in New Providence are experiencing the discomfort of having their electrical supplies interrupted for various lengths of time.

One area--Paradise Island where a great number of visitors stay--has been without electricity for the last three days and is expected to remain in the same predicament until the weekend. Other areas of New Providence like Seven Hills and Bamboo Town were without electricity from Tuesday afternoon until the following night at midnight.

The management of the Bahamas Electricity Corporation and the Bahamas Electrical Worker's Union which represents the workers of that corporation are dead-locked over negotiations for a new three-year industrial agreement. According to the Union's Acting Secretary-General the 30 per cent increase in salaries and wages was totally unacceptable and since last Friday the union has officially been on a "go slow."

The management of the Corporation says sabotage has not been ruled out in the disruption of services. While we are not taking the position that some person or persons connected with the Union may be damaging the equipment of the Corporation, it is strange that whenever the union and management are locked in a struggle over wages, electrical supplies are often disrupted. We do not recall as many areas being disrupted and as much equipment malfunctioning since the Union's strike just prior to last year's General Election.

If the Union is indeed responsible for this act being used as a tactic to pressure Management into acceding to the demands, they ought to be roundly condemned, for it is the Bahamian public who has to bear with this problem, and it is we who will ultimately have to pay for repairs or replacement of the equipment.

This struggle in BEC is seen by the ordinary person as a struggle between the workers of that corporation and the Government, even though the corporation functions as a separate body and is responsible only to itself. Consequently if the Management of the Corporation is indeed not acting in good faith in its negotiations with the Union those persons responsible for such actions should be removed from their positions immediately as they serve only to frustrate the good efforts of the Government in dealing with the demands, most times justifiable ones, of Union members.

Another Work Stoppage

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 7 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

HUNDREDS OF Bahamas Electricity Workers, angered with BEC for using non-Bahamian labour to repair a cable problem Saturday, pulled another work stoppage this morning.

BEC brought in three technicians from Robstone Co, Miami, to repair a cable that faulted at 4 am last Monday, forcing Paradise Island hotels to switch to their emergency generators and leaving homeowners without electricity. The only four BEC workers qualified to make the repairs were "sick" until today. Power was restored to the island at about midnight Saturday.

"We've stopped. There's nothing that we can do," BEC spokesman Freeman Duncanson said of the work stoppage this morning.

BEC workers, members of the Electrical Workers Union which is in a wage dispute with management, hung around the various stations all morning, but refused to work. The workers at Blue Hills station said they were waiting for their union leader, Reginald Forbes, to appear.

Asked about the use of foreign labour, Mr Duncanson wanted to know, "What choice did we have?"

"Yes, we used outsiders to do a job that Bahamians refused to do - apparently not caring about

the plight of the hoteliers at Paradise Island or their guests."

Mr Duncanson said that the hotels that were able to generate their own power would have run into problems sooner or later because their generators are not designed for continual use.

He said BEC will not revise its final offer to the union for a 30 per cent wage increase over a three year period. The union is asking for a 32 per cent compounded increase.

"BEC has stretched itself to the limit. We have offered everything we possibly can. It's a stalemate. We can't do anything more," he said.

BEC workers have been on a go-slow for several weeks over the pay dispute. As of Friday, over 65 homes in Nassau were without electricity. The workers also refused to work Friday morning.

Tentative Agreement

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] An agreement in principle was arrived at late Friday evening between the Bahamas Electricity Corporation and the Bahamas Electrical Workers Union and is expected to be signed within two weeks, a union spokesman revealed today.

But, the spokesman added, there still remains a few other things that have to be ironed out in the tentative agreement to replace a three-year industrial contract with BEC which expired since April.

"A resolution is nearing," the spokesman said. "Basically, I think we have an agreement in principle. The agreement was arrived at late Friday evening."

The spokesman also said: "There are a few other things that have to be ironed out. Hopefully we will be able to sign the agreement in a week or two."

The contract talks, which hit a snag last month, was referred to the Industrial Relations Board for arbitration by the Ministry of Labour earlier this month.

The spokesman said that the Board made certain recommendations to which both parties agreed resulting in a continuation of the negotiations which have been going on since August.

"Several areas needed to be ironed out and we (BEC's management and union executives) got together and dealt with them," the union spokesman said. "They were important clauses."

The union spokesman refused to reveal what the clauses were but noted that the financial aspect of the contract, which caused most of the industrial unrest recently plaguing BEC, were dealt with last Wednesday at a meeting of the IRB.

"There was a compromise," the spokesman said. "It was not what we wanted and it was not what they offered."

The spokesman said that BEC's management and union officials intend to meet sometime within the week, "but probably not before Friday" to resolve the outstanding issues.

He also said that union members are expected to ratify the new tentative agreement sometime next week after the contract's final wording is received from BEC general manager Mr Peter Bethel this weekend.

"It was a very, very intensive struggle and we didn't come out quite smelling like roses," the spokesman said. "But our accomplishment is something I think we can live with for three years."

Union president Reginald Forbes, who said last month that agreement was imminent, was not available for comment today.

The spokesman also refused to reveal what percentage of salary increases BEC's 500-plus workers will receive under the terms of the new contract which brings to an end four months of stormy negotiations and nearly a month of electrical woes for residents of New Providence and Paradise Island.

During the past month, several areas of New Providence have been hard hit by electrical black-outs, some lasting for more than 24 hours, due to damaged electrical cables.

Also Paradise Island was hit with a power shortage for nearly two weeks when a cable servicing the area from Fowler Street east was damaged. This week power was restored and conditions were reported back to normal on the resort island.

BEC's management has claimed sabotage on most of the damaged electrical cables, which came during a period of industrial unrest by the union whose members are currently working to rule.

Just last week the union staged a work stoppage, intensifying their action against BEC.

The union's three-year contract with BEC expired on April 30 and a contract was submitted to management and negotiations began on August 3.

The union was asking for a 32 per cent compounded increase over a three-year period while management had offered a straight 30 per cent raise, which the union claim would not keep pace with the cost of living.

Following the deadlock in talks, the union placed its members on work-to-rule, resulting in a delay in repairs to electrical cables by workers who refused to work overtime.

The union also filed a trade dispute with the Ministry of Labour and several officials from the ministry, including Labour Director Mr C. H. Turnquest mediated the talks to no avail.

Also joining the talks before it was sent to arbitration early this month was BEC Executive Chairman Mr Milo Butler Jr.

The union spokesman said that the talks that led to the agreement in principle was held between the union officials and management of BEC at the corporation's premises and was not mediated.

A strike vote was also taken by the union members in mid-October and the cooling off period before a strike could be called expired last month.

The union also denied allegations of sabotage of electrical cables and called management's claim a "bunch of half-truths, deliberately concocted to mislead the public and play on their emotions."

The tentative agreement also ended the threat of a strike that hung over BEC since the expiration of the 25-day cooling-off period.

UNION CALLS FOR REMOVAL OF MINISTER OF LABOR MAYNARD

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 17 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

THE CEMENT and Construction Workers Union in Freeport, Grand Bahama, said today that it is "greatly concerned" at the way Bahamians are being treated at the Bahama Cement Company by expatriates and has called for the removal of Minister of Labour Clement Maynard from that ministry.

"We the unionists at Bahama Cement Company are tired of being pushed around and forced out of jobs in our own country that we are capable of handling," the union's acting president, Henry Knowles, said in a letter to the Editor of The Tribune.

But Mr Jean Tambay, president of Bahamas Cement Company, refused to comment on the union's charge of bad treatment of its members at the Freeport plant.

"There is no comment that I can make on that," Mr Tambay said today. "There are some cases now being studied by the Labour Board so I can't comment on that."

The union said that several letters have been written to the Minister of Labour asking him to look into the matter to try to alleviate some of the "bad treatment that Bahamians are receiving at Bahama Cement, but the Minister never replied to

the letters."

According to the union, on one occasion the Minister called the union's president to Nassau and told him he would look into the matter but to date, nothing else has been heard about it, said Mr Knowles.

"The union has tribunal cases at the Labour Board as far back as two years ago and no result comes from the Ministry of Labour," the union said, adding that the Minister's daughter, lawyer Allyson Maynard, sat in on one of the cases but the union has yet to hear of the result of that case.

The union claimed that the cement company laid off Bahamian supervisors, but kept expatriate supervisors.

"Some of the Bahamian supervisors were working at Bahamas Cement from five to 20 years," the union said. Mr Knowles claims that they have not had severance pay.

The union, which filed a second dispute against the cement company with the Ministry of Labour on October 25, wrote earlier this month to the ministry in Nassau to request that all future meetings between union and management be held in Nassau instead of Freeport.

The union's acting president Henry Knowles said at the time

that the dispute with the company was for more pay and more security for Bahamians in their jobs at the company.

Mr Knowles and 38 others were laid off by the company in June.

The union's first three-year contract expired on August 19 this year and Mr Knowles said that a new contract was proposed to the company in May.

In August, Mr Knowles claimed that the company president, Mr Tambay had refused to negotiate a new contract because Mr Knowles had been laid off and had no right negotiating a contract for the company's employees.

Mr Knowles was appointed by the union's 340 members in June to succeed former president Audley Hanna, who resigned temporarily to enter politics.

Mr Knowles said that the union has 12 cases against the company under consideration by the arbitration tribunal of the Ministry of Labour but has not had the results of any of them.

UNION DENIES 'CONSPIRACY' TO TOPPLE TUC LEADERSHIP

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 31 Oct 83 pp 1, 5

[Article by Marcia Bethell]

[Text]

THE BAHAMAS Communications and Public Officers Union has denied a story that appeared in the National Express on October 28 that claims there is a conspiracy within the BCPOU and others to "topple the leadership of the TUC."

According to the Express, the BCPOU has joined with others in a conspiracy to overthrow certain key figures in the leadership of the Trade Union Congress and re-establish the terminated Memorandum of Understanding between the TUC and the governing Progressive Liberal Party.

The Express claimed that it was informed that several high-ranking trade unionists in the country "sneaked" over the Paradise Island Bridge to the PLP convention, hoping to strike a deal with the Government to restore the cancelled Memorandum and to sack Arlington Miller, TUC president, and A Leonard Archer, general secretary.

The report went on to say that indications are that the Prime Minister "snubbed those who hung around the lobby of The Holiday Inn awaiting word to come down on their offer."

The BCPOU, in a release issued today said that for the benefit of those "unsuspecting and uninformed" members of

the reading public who may be "misled by the apparent exercise in malicious mischief-making" the BCPOU is obliged to set the record straight.

First, it should be noted that the BCPOU not only is a trade unionist, but its president Charles Bethel presently serves as the first vice president of the TUC and the BCPOU remains fully committed to the values and objectives of the organization."

The BCPOU said they have no knowledge of any "disillusionment" with the leadership of Mr Miller and Mr Archer within the TUC. And they are not aware, or party to, any move to put these two men "out to pasture".

"Indeed, for its part the BCPOU retains the utmost confidence in the present leadership of the TUC and those concerned will be the first to know when or if this is not the case.

"Further, the BCPOU's position on the Memorandum of Understanding between the TUC and the PLP remains as it was and the union has had no reason to change it. As an organization, the BCPOU has always adhered to the principle that a political marriage of convenience between organized labour and any political party,

while it may benefit certain political opportunists, is not in the best interest of the masses of workers represented by the movement."

The BCPOU said that consequently they did not support the accord between the TUC and the PLP in 1977 and pointed out that the then president was voted out of office because of the role she played in that affair.

"But firmly believing in the working class as well as the principles of democracy and majority rule, the BCPOU, unlike some others did not use this disagreement - fundamental though it was - as a pretext for leaving the TUC. The BCPOU's position was eventually vindicated by the dissolution of the TUC-PLP partnership in 1981 when a majority of TUC members became convinced that it had not worked as expected."

The BCPOU said that to lend some "credence to its great journalistic expose" the Express disclosed that among the trade unionist seen on Paradise Island during the PLP convention were Keith Archer, executive vice president of the BCPOU, and Robert Thompson, general secretary.

"However the information of the Express, the named BCPOU officers are men of impeccable principles, who would not be

involved in the kind of political prostitution suggested by the Express. In fact," the BCPOU said, "Mr Archer's presence on Paradise Island at the time in question was for purely personal reasons and had absolutely nothing to do with union business or party politics. As for Mr Thompson, suffice to say that he happens to be employed with the Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas as a television producer and the PLP Convention activities were being televised live at that time."

The BCPOU went on to say that the Express, elaborating on its account to have the TUC-PLP pact restored, claimed that the legal representative for one of the unions (who was identified as a high ranking FNM official) advised the body against it and reportedly asked that the union hold out with the hope that a snap general election may be called and the FNM wins.

However, according to the Express "the rank and file of that union, which represents over 1500 workers from two bodies, want no more of the

FNM influence in that union and reportedly showed their hand recently when they refused to take part in the D-Day exercises of the TUC called by Miller and Archer."

"Of course as far as the BCPOU is concerned, none of this had any basis in fact and it all can be dismissed with the contempt it deserves as a figment of someone's over active imagination.

"But, again for the information of the Express, to his credit, the BCPOU's legal adviser, attorney Orville Turnquest (who is a high ranking member of the FNM) does not offer political advice to the union, nor does the union seek any such advice from him. The same is true of the BCPOU's financial adviser, chartered accountant Franklyn

Wilson, who happens to be a prominent member of the PLP."

The BCPOU said that as a principled and independent workers' organization, the actions and decisions of the BCPOU are subject to the dictates of no political master and are not determined by the FNM influence or any other political considerations except what is deemed to be in the best interest of its members as workers and trade unionists.

"In the final analysis, while from all appearances The National Express may have a newly acquired political axe to grind, the BCPOU does not appreciate being used in what seems at the best to be a cleverly conceived concoction of twisted truth and outright distortions to serve someone's political purposes," the BCPOU said.

GOVERNMENT CONFISCATES U.S. BANANAS, LEMONS AT STORES

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 29 Oct 83 p 1

[Article by Marcia Bethell]

[Text]

MINISTRY OF Agriculture representatives last week paid a surprise call on local foodstores and confiscated imported American lemons and bananas. Managers were informed that, as of August 5, a ban had been placed on the importation of these products and only locally grown limes and bananas can now be sold.

A total of \$1,314 worth of American bananas and lemons were confiscated from three Supervalu Foodstores. No compensation was made to the stores. Store managers said they were under the impression that they only required a weekly permit to import such products and were not aware of the ban.

During his address at the annual P.L.P. Convention this week, Minister of Agriculture George Smith warned foodstore operators, including wholesalers, that "appropriate measures will shortly be implemented to require the operators to obtain specific permits to import foodstuffs."

He said that foodstores must make more of an effort to provide the opportunity for shoppers to buy Bahamian, and that the "old excuses" about availability and standards no

longer apply.

"Bahamian goods are available, the foodstore operators must learn that when they refuse to buy Bahamian products from Bahamian producers, they are putting jobs and livelihoods in jeopardy. This will not be permitted to continued," Minister Smith warned.

Today Rupert Roberts, owner of the Supervalu foodstore chain, said that he fully supports the buy-Bahamian policy as long as it is administered properly and the products are available and are of good quality.

"I don't take objection to this as long as the Bahamian products are available and of good quality. I am one hundred percent in favour of supporting the Bahamian economy and I am anxious to promote Bahamian foods. The philosophy is good, if it is administered properly," Mr Roberts said.

However, he said, the way the policy is administered at times creates "all sorts of problems." For example, he pointed out, if local foodstores have to import tomatoes because locally grown tomatoes are not available, the import duty is not changed quickly enough.

"This is unfair," he said.

"The Ministry of Agriculture don't have the machinery to act fast enough to change import prices when they should be changed to take care of the need. I have seen days run into weeks. I have seen it run into three months before the duty is changed on foreign tomatoes when there are no more tomatoes in the Bahamas. This has to be administered right to make the concept work properly."

For one and a half years, Mr Roberts said, they have been required to have weekly permits to import fruits and vegetables. For each shipment they had to have a permit. In the past he said the foodstores were allowed to order and pay 200% duty on the products if the public wanted them.

"Now the public has no choice in the matter. Government is just cutting off the foreign goods to force the others on the public."

Store managers said today that very often local producers are not able to supply the products, or they are not of good quality. They said there is a demand for American lemons and bananas and they were selling very well.

The Mackey Street branch manager said that on Thursday of last week, two Ministry of

Agriculture representatives walked into the store, identified themselves and then said they were looking for imported American lemons and bananas. He said they walked out of the store with 600 lemons, valued at \$234 and 76 pounds of bananas valued at \$44.84.

Supervalue, Blue Hill branch manager, said today that the two representatives came into the store on Thursday, identified themselves and said they were going to confiscate all the imported American lemons and bananas. They walked out with \$174 worth of lemons, but the store had no bananas.

"As I understood it," the manager said, "we were required to have a weekly permit to bring in these products. We were importing them through a local importer and we were not aware that there was a ban on the products," he said.

From the Golden Gates Branch \$780 worth of lemons were confiscated and \$82 worth of bananas.

Commenting on Mr Smith's warning that shortly local foodstores and wholesale operators will require specific permits for all imported foodstuff, Mr Roberts did not see what items this could be extended to other than the ones for which permits are already required.

CSO: 3298/261

1979 LAND ACT CONDEMNED BY REALTORS BECOMES LAW

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 1 Nov 83 pp 1, 10

[Article by Marcia Bethell]

[Text]

THE IMMOVABLE Property Act, which Bahamian realtors warned would lead to the "downfall of the Bahamian economy" when introduced in 1979, is now law.

Today realtors reacted with surprise at the announcement and many of them repeated warnings of the "detrimental effect" it will have on the economy. They have called on Government to deal with the applications that come before it for the sale of land, promptly and fairly.

When first introduced by Government in 1979 the "Land Act", as it was known, brought such an adverse reaction from Bahamians that government was forced to amend it. Realtors were under the impression that it would never be implemented as law because of the affect it would have on the economy.

The Act, as is, requires that any foreigner wanting to purchase land in the Bahamas will now have to get government's permission. It is understood that all land sale applications have to be scrutinized by Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Finance AD Hanna before they are approved or rejected. In 1980 the rejection rate was 80 percent, according to a lawyer.

According to realtors interviewed today the actual af-

fect of the Act on the economy will depend on how promptly and fairly Government decides to approve the applications.

"If things tend to drag, which they have a tendency of doing, this will have a detrimental affect on the economy. If the applications are dealt with fairly and quickly, things should be okay," said realtor, and former Marsh Harbour MP, Mike Lightbourne.

Saying that over the past four years land sales to foreigners have not been very good, Mr Lightbourne said the Act will now affect the sale of expensive land, for example at Lyford Cay or in the Family Islands.

"The Bahamian market, since the Act was introduced, has been quite good, but there are not a great number of Bahamians who can afford to buy expensive land. It will hurt the sales on the Family Islands, but these sales were hurt since 1979. The real estate business will never be what it was before 1979," Mr Lightbourne said, adding that the Act was introduced with the purpose of "keeping the Joe Leher's of this world from owning big parcels of land."

Another realtor, George Damianos, also stressed the need for Government to deal with the applications promptly.

"Once this is done it shouldn't have any real effect

because we have been dealing with it as a (government) policy since 1979. Once it is dealt with within a reasonable period of time and we don't get frustrated buyers and sellers everything should be okay," Mr Damianos said.

He added that the announcement, which appeared in a small advertisement in the Government Gazette, did not come as that much of a surprise to him since the Act has always been pending.

Mr Damianos said that the sale of land to foreigners since the Act was introduced has not been good, but, he said, the American Market has improved. Germans were the largest European buyers for Bahamian land, the realtors reported, and speculated that the decline in the European market was mainly because of the Act, but also because of the decline in the value of the German Deutschmark over the years.

Another realtor, Mr George Dunkley, of HG Christie, today said he disapproved of how the announcement was made simply as a legal notice and stressed the

need for applications to be dealt with quickly.

"The announcement did come as a surprise to me because it just appeared as a legal notice in the Guardian this morning. I would have thought they would have said more about it," Mr Dunkley said.

"The Act will affect the sales of property in the Bahamas to some extent. Over the past four years there has been an improvement of sales in the American market and it may affect this because of the time taken to approve the applications."

The realtor said that at present Government is taking from six to nine months to approve one application and said it should be done more quickly than this.

A lawyer commenting on the situation today said, "Reading this in the light of Pindling's statements at the (PLP) convention last week, it is quite frightening and will certainly adversely affect our economy."

The Immovable Property (Acquisition by Foreign Persons) Act, when first introduced into Parliament, gave Prime Minister Pindling and selected Ministers exclusive power to approve or disapprove any land transaction through the issuance of permits. It also said that any foreigner who has inherited Bahamian land and wants to keep his property would have had to apply to a board, headed by the Prime Minister, to do so. If the permit was refused the person having power to sell was required to do so within three years. If this was not done, then the person with power to sell was required to pay the treasurer on every anniversary of the final day of the three year period 10 per cent of the retail value of the property.

However, after outrage was expressed by Bahamians, the Act was amended. It now requires that the spouse, child, grandchild, parent, niece or nephew of a foreign person, who owns Bahamian property, which is used as his normal place of residence, can inherit property without applying for a permit. However, no mention was made of a brother or sister inheriting from a non-Bahamian.

In the case of leasing, a foreign person under the proposed act was not allowed to lease a property for more than seven years, after which he would have to apply for a permit if he wanted to extend his lease. This section covered time-sharing.

Under the amended Act, the period in which a foreigner can lease property without applying for a permit was extended to 21 years.

The amended Act also takes away from the Board the right to alter the terms of permits after they have been issued. Now the permit can only be altered on request of the applicant. And, under the new Act a foreigner does not have to apply for permission to hold his property.

The proposed Act stated that a director of a company that conveyed property without a permit would be liable to prosecution and, upon conviction, subject to a maximum fine of \$2,000 or six months in prison.

That section was amended and now states that a director of a company must have "knowingly" been a partner to a transaction in order to be prosecuted.

However, even with the amendments, realtors still felt that a great deal of damage had been done to the economy.

BRIEFS

TOURISM GAINS--The Ministry of Tourism has announced that visitor arrivals in September were up 5.1 percent for a total of 131,320 tourists compared to 124,930 in the same month last year. The Ministry said that 1,727,390 visitors arrived in the first nine months of 1983 compared with 1,474,450 in the same period last year, an increase of 17.2 percent. Family Island visitors fell 18.6 percent in September and 3.9 percent for the year to date, although air visitors were up in both cases. New Providence arrivals showed a 29.5 percent gain in September and were up 34 percent for the year to date. In Grand Bahama, arrivals fell 17.7 percent in September, but were up 2.3 percent overall for the first nine months. Figures show that Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera had the most dramatic change in tourist figures for 1983. In 1982 visitor arrivals totalled 710. In 1983 the arrivals rose to 5,090, a change of 616.9 percent. Congo Town, Andros, had the biggest drop in arrivals according to statistics. In 1982 they had 750 visitors. In 1983 only 500, a change of -33.3 percent. Also showing large drops in visitor arrivals were Cape Eleuthera, -18.1 percent, Cat Cay, Bimini, -24.9 percent, Rock Sound, Eleuthera, -18.7 percent, Freeport, Grand Bahama, -9.9 percent and West End, -17.7 percent. [Excerpts] [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 28 Oct 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/263

OPPOSITION ATTACKS SWAN FOR SUPPORT OF GRENADA INVASION

Criticism of Foreign Affairs Step

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 27 Oct 83 p 2

[Text]

Opposition Leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans yesterday lashed Government's quick support of the multi-nation invasion of the Caribbean island of Grenada.

Mrs. Browne Evans said Premier the Hon. John Swan expressed his support out of ignorance.

"Mr. Swan should not have made any remarks on the situation. He is not competent and was not informed," said Mrs. Browne Evans.

Her comments came the same day Progressive Labour Party chairman Mr. Alex Scott was accused of "double-speak" in his response to news of the invasion of Grenada.

The charge was levelled by outspoken Government MP Mr. Harry Viera who offered his own uncompromising support to the American and Caribbean military operation in Grenada.

"Mr. Scott's equivocating and reluctance to enthusiastically support American intervention in Grenada is surprising," said Mr. Viera.

Supposing the PLP were governing Bermuda and their leaders were faced with a coup d'etat, abducted and assassinated, where would they turn for help?

"After all we have recently heard one voice threaten to bring Bermuda to its knees and I doubt that he had democratic process in mind."

Mrs. Browne Evans said Government should have discussed the matter with the Opposition, Government party, and even called Parliament early to discuss the matter before expressing his opinion on behalf of Bermuda.

"You have to be very careful," said Mrs. Browne Evans. "He needs an advisor who knows what to say on foreign affairs. He made an emotional decision and endorsed the invasion. As a person he could do that, but as the Premier he should not have done so."

Mr. Viera pointed out that Mr. Scott said had other Caribbean nations not taken part in the invasion he would have seen it as a foreign force.

"Would he please explain the double-speak," said Mr. Viera. "As far as I know most of the Caribbean nations that joined the Americans are independent and therefore foreign forces."

... Caribbean governments asked the US
... Grenada a chance to make a
... Mr. Swan continued

... no break of sovereignty when a nation is
... the arms of Cuban puppets serving

... prosecution of a benign major power
... could not live under the umbrella of
... than the Russian bear.

Government Stand on Aid to Grenada

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 28 Oct 83 p 1

[Text]

Government plans to explore ways to provide financial and material aid to the trouble-torn Caribbean island of Grenada.

Premier the Hon. John Swan announced the move yesterday following a United Bermuda Party Caucus meeting which gave "whole-hearted" support for Government's message backing the American invasion.

The meeting also asked the Premier to look at ways of giving assistance, possibly along similar lines to the South Atlantic Fund for victims of the Falklands war.

"I have not yet made any definitive plans except to say that I support what the Caucus has asked," said Mr. Swan.

"Perhaps we could assist with a collective effort to provide supplies in a monetary or material way there once we have established what is needed.

"I am looking at all the various aspects of it and hope to be able to respond some time in the very near future."

Mr. Swan hoped to be in contact with Grenada as soon as order was established and channels of communication re-opened.

"My hope is that contact will be with a legitimate, democratic government," he said.

Mr. Swan came under fire this week from critics who said he acted too swiftly in announcing Government's support for the invasion and had not consulted all the appropriate authorities.

He was also accused of breaching the constitution by issuing the statement, since as Bermuda is a colony matters of foreign affairs should be handled by the Governor. The criticism came from both UBP and Opposition ranks.

Said Mr. Swan: "I don't regard what I was saying as in any way offensive to our constitutional position with the United Kingdom and that has been said by the

Acting Governor."

He said the matter was discussed with the Cabinet before the statement of support was released. "I can't discuss with you what takes place in Cabinet but the statement that I made was the Cabinet's position.

"It was not just John Swan's arbitrary position. It was no different from the Martin Luther King holiday."

The Caucus offered complete support for the statement. "There was no suggestion in Caucus today that we acted hastily. Absolutely not. I dare you to canvass every Caucus member."

Reiteration of Aid Pledge

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 24 Nov 83 p 5

[Text]

Government is to match funds raised for Grenada by the Bermuda West Indies Association up to a limit of \$50,000.

The Premier, the Hon. John Swan, announced the decision yesterday and said Government would endorse all fund raising events organised by the Association.

Government will match whatever is raised up to that limit only if it approves of the way it is to be used. It has already been learned that there is no desperate need for clothing and it is not yet clear how the funds raised will eventually be spent.

Mr. Swan suggested that it might be used to help the families of those who died in the conflict or the wounded in the form of pensions or it might be put towards education or other institutions.

It is not expected that the appeal will be completed in time for Christmas and Mr. Swan said that 30 days might be allowed for the fund raising and another 30 days for the dispersion of the money.

He pointed to the support previously lent to the

Falklands and South African funds: "We have been gratified by this support and this time I ask the public, particularly as we approach the season of giving, to remember those people in Grenada by supporting the West Indian Association in their efforts to assist."

CSO: 3298/264

TEXT OF THRONE SPEECH; PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE, PLP RESPONSE

House Focus on Grenada

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 5 Nov 83 pp 1, 2, 10

[Text]

Opposition Leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans gave the Premier a verbal "spanking" for his stand on Grenada in a surprise and fiery debate in the reconvened House of Assembly yesterday. Mrs. Browne Evans accused the Premier of overstepping the constitution with his message of support for the invasion. And she also had some strong words for the way past Governors have played down their constitutional role and played up the importance of the Premier.

The reopening of Parliament is usually an occasion where party politics take a back seat to pomp and ceremony. So the lively debate on Grenada came as a surprising departure from tradition.

Mrs. Browne Evans led the way, rising to her feet during the motion to adjourn to launch her criticism of Premier the Hon. John Swan's handling of the affair.

The Premier should have made a statement to the House about Grenada, especially as his "hasty" action during the recess said to be on behalf of the people of Bermuda.

The Premier has said that he favours independence for Bermuda and how can he then endorse the invasion of another independent country?

An independent country, no matter how small, should have control over its internal

and external affairs, said Mrs. Browne Evans.

"If you decide you need assistance then you take steps to get it," she said. The Grenadians had not asked the US to intervene. And when CARICOM met on the matter four of the major countries said "no" to the invasion.

"I believe in independence and that a country ought not to be invaded by foreign nations. That is the stand taken by the rest of the world apart from the US."

She continued: "The kith and kin of the US - Great Britain and a Conservative Party leader - took the position that the US ought not to go in at the time they did."

"If the Premier wants to start making foreign policy statements, let's deal with the constitutional position."

The Warwick Camp agreement stated that until

Bermuda decides it wants independence the Government would not have autonomy in foreign relations.

But if the Premier did anything wrong by issuing his statement, it was the attitude of the past two Governors in playing down the role of the Queen's representative here which helped create the situation.

"I have watched them play it down and elevate the role of the Premiership almost to Prime Ministership," said Mrs. Browne Evans.

The last Governor had made the mistake of handing over the presentation of the cup at Cup Match to the Premier, thereby giving it a political slant.

"There is a con-game going on to make people believe that we are a sovereign country. We are a colony. We don't have a Prime Minister until we go independent."

She continued: "This is a colony of Great Britain and until we decide that we wish to become independent we should stop playing games. When the Premier speaks on foreign affairs I would have no objection if he had said it was his personal opinion or the opinion of his Government."

"But don't say it is on behalf of the people."

Acting Governor Mr. Mark Herdman had admitted that he was not consulted before the Premier made his statement of support.

"I didn't expect Mr. Herdman to really spank him in public. Governors don't behave that way."

"The Opposition is supposed to spank him if he does something wrong and that is what we have done today."

Mr. Harry Viera (UBP) said the Premier had the total support of his parliamentary group for his action.

"I can't fathom the attitude of the Opposition regarding the UBP Government regarding what happened in Grenada," he said.

What sovereignty exists for a people who are living under the arms of the Cubans supplied by the Russians?"

The PLP has been very closely identified with the Bermuda Industrial Union. "Two union leaders were assassinated. The silence from the other side was deafening on these issues."

"They are against capital punishment. How do they feel about assassinations?"

The Russian nuclear-powered submarine has now been seen not far from Ber-

muda. "I hope the damn thing blows up," said Mr. Viera.

"We should now look at how we can assist the Grenadian people to regain stability and get back on the road to democracy. I think what has really upset the Opposition is that we are now beating them to the punch on these issues."

Mr. Frederick Wade (PLP), the Shadow Minister of Home Affairs, accused Government of adopting amazing double standards. They talk about law and order and then support the invasion of another country which is against international law.

"I'm surprised that Mr. Swan didn't this morning withdraw this holiday for Martin Luther King because Mr. Reagan is now calling him a communist," he said.

"Reagan and the American government found the Grenadian situation a God-send, a political plum." The Americans have been "getting licks" internationally and Grenada presented an opportunity to bolster their image in the world.

"If I was in Mr. Reagan's shoes I would probably have done the same thing."

The reasons the Americans put forward for the invasion were the same reasons the Russians used to justify the invasion of Afghanistan, he continued.

It was shameful that Bermuda had offered support to the Americans. "Bermuda is the only country in the world, outside those that invaded, that supported the invasion."

The Hon. Sir John Sharpe, Minister of Home Affairs, said that the real purpose of the Opposition Leader's speech was to rally her dispirited followers.

"But she should have learned from her experience at the last election that the

way to do it is not to attack the Premier," said Sir John.

The Opposition Leader's performance was pathetic.

"It has been sad to hear her discarding her friends in the Caribbean like old clothes."

Sir John sat "dodging" the Opposition as old friends like Dominica and Jamaica were tossed away.

"If Bermudians are asked to choose between Cuba and America which are they going to choose. They are going to choose America."

"If the Government of Bermuda is asked to choose between Russia and America we will all choose America."

Dunrossil Address

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 5 Nov 83 p 4

[Speech by Governor and Commander-in-Chief Dunrossil]

[Text]

Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Hon. House of Assembly:

In the coming Session of the Legislature, Government will continue to address those important matters which most affect the quality of life in Bermuda.

Legislation alone cannot ensure that the most desirable outcome is achieved. The active co-operation and participation of everyone is essential.

It is not possible to legislate attitudes, or to enforce greater personal care on our roads, or to reduce noise pollution, or to prevent the littering of our streets and public places or to achieve general harmony, unless everyone recognises that these problems exist and is determined to co-operate in resolving them.

Government is gravely concerned over the escalation of crime and reaffirms its full support of the Police in their endeavours to prevent crime and apprehend offenders. The Overseas Police Adviser from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has been invited to review the organisation and deployment of the Police in the light of the changing nature of crime and society.

The needs of the general public will be closely monitored in respect of neighbourhood improvements and current programmes for the provision of sidewalks, bus shelters, laybys, additional street lighting and improvements to minor roads will continue.

Government is aware of the special needs of the handicapped in respect of access to public buildings and schools. Insofar as is practicable, new public and commercial buildings will be required to provide appropriate access facilities, and efforts to improve access to existing Government buildings will continue.

The Human Rights Commission will shortly sponsor a study of racial attitudes, which will attempt to identify problems remaining in the community and make recommendations for their solution.

Government created the Housing Corporation with the objective of ensuring that as many Bermudians as possible should own their own homes. That number is now in excess of 50% and is improving significantly every year. The Corporation is now also being used as an instrument for the provision of rental units for those whose circumstances do not presently enable them to purchase.

The Rockaway housing development in Southampton is proceeding well, and the completion of eighty-two units is anticipated by March 1984.

Progressive development of the Middletown area is due to commence soon and, together with other developments on Hermitage Road, Longford Road and at St. David's, will provide another ninety units in the coming year. The West End Development Corporation will soon start work on the first twenty-six houses at Rose Island.

These measures will encourage provision of new accommodation by the private rental sector. In addition, exemption from Rent Control of all residential buildings constructed after 30th June 1983, and the provision through the Housing Corporation, of additional mortgage funds. The first eight million pounds will provide funds for one hundred and seventy-five housing units in the private sector.

A new Planning Statute will be laid before the Legislature in the coming Session following an extensive study which has taken into traditional land use analysis, has examined economic and social aspects of the development. A survey of public space will lead to the establishment of a formal National Parks System.

The Legislature will be asked to approve the acquisition of over 2 acres of land off Glebe Road, Pembroke, for the provision of a recreation area; 13.6 acres at Outerlea, Smith's Parish, for the preservation of open space and agricultural use; and 24.78 acres at Astwood Cove, South Shore Road, Warwick.

The first phase of work on the development of the National Sports Centre will commence in 1984 providing facilities both for our accomplished athletes and for community recreational purposes.

In contrast to the rapid growth experienced during the latter half of the 1970s, Bermuda's economy suffered a sharp decline in 1981 and has staged only a partial recovery through 1982 and 1983. Although there is some indication of economic recovery elsewhere, particularly in the United States of America, it is likely that our own economic growth will continue to be moderate in the immediate future. The health of our international business community remains strong, notwithstanding cut-backs by some companies as a result of international trading conditions and a growing concern at the high cost of doing business in Bermuda. There has been a welcome increase in tourist arrivals in the first half of this year compared with 1982, and it is hoped that this trend will continue.

Government remains committed to the continuation of Bermuda's high standard of living but to maintain this, it is vital that we remain competitive in the two areas of tourism and international business, and realistic levels of wage settlements and the stabilising of costs are essential ingredients of our continued prosperity.

A Green Paper is in course of preparation in respect of Bermuda's part in the rapidly developing field of telecommunications technology. At a recent meeting in Geneva on satellite systems, the Regional Administrative Conference allocated two "orbital slots" to Bermuda—a most valuable asset both in financial and participatory terms.

Positive early response has been given to the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into the working procedures of the Emergency Department of King Edward VII Memorial Hospital. Further progressive improvements will follow from the Commission's comprehensive report.

The renovations at Lefroy House, and the 30-bed extension, will now permit the transfer of those elderly patients from King Edward VII Memorial Hospital who require nursing home care.

The Royal Commission into the Use and Misuse of Drugs and Alcohol has been appointed and has begun its extensive investigation into this problem, which is of great concern to us all. Its findings will provide valuable information, on which future action can be based. Meantime, all citizens are urged to co-operate with the Police to contain this menace.

Significant improvements in the Prison Service will result from the construction of the new Women's Prison and Senior Training School. Work has already begun and the School will be ready for occupation in late 1984.

A White Paper on Education will be submitted to the Legislature in the coming Session, which will have the benefit of recommendations to be made by a Ministerial Commission which is reviewing the entire education system.

The ongoing programme to introduce computer training into schools is proving to be a great success and a further project to introduce computer education in all secondary schools, three primary schools and two special schools has begun. It has been noted that public enrolment in computer courses generally has increased tenfold since 1979.

Plans for the new Day Training Centre on Parsons Lane have gone out to tender and it is anticipated that work will commence during this Session.

Following active discussion generated by the Green Paper on Youth Development, Government is taking careful account of the views of the community at large in devising policies and programmes in this field.

The Historic Articles (Export Control) Act 1983 came into effect on the 15th September, 1983, and indications are that it has already been effective in retaining in Bermuda interesting and valuable items related to Bermuda's heritage.

Government will continue to give particular attention to the problems of the refuse disposal area at Marsh Folly Road. Considerable funds have been applied to this project and further studies are being conducted on sewage disposal and options of treatment methods and their location.

Work on the development of a 60,000 gallons per day reverse osmosis plant at St. George's will be completed during the year. Government remains committed to the further development of natural resources for public water supply.

An exhaustive study of the local fishing industry has been completed and a comprehensive management and development programme has been prepared. A White Paper will be presented to the Legislature, addressing the need for preserving dwindling fisheries resources and the livelihood of commercial fishermen.

The Bermuda Oil Pollution Contingency Planning Committee will hold training exercises with the United States Navy and the United States Coast Guard, further to improve our ability to respond quickly to oil pollution.

The Health and Safety at Work Act will come into force soon and draft regulations are now being prepared by the Safety Council.

Public response to the Discussion Paper on Labour Relations debated earlier this year in Parliament will assist Government in deciding what, if any, changes in the law may be helpful.

Government will shortly announce a policy which will have the effect of giving foreign spouses of Bermudians more employment flexibility and security in the job market.

The Bermuda Regiment continued to foster its excellent training arrangements with the United States Marine Corps in a camp held at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. The 1984 Camp will be held in Jamaica with the assistance of the Jamaica Defence Force, thus continuing the arrangement to alternate annual camps in two very different and challenging environments.

Government is grateful for the response received to the Green Paper entitled *The Private Car and the Road Traffic Problem in Bermuda*. The issues raised have been widely debated and Government will address itself to the problems identified.

Government is concerned over the apparent deterioration in driving standards of both motorists and cyclists on our roads. The Road Safety Council is giving this matter urgent attention. Penalties under the Traffic Offences Penalties Act are being reviewed in the light of current trends.

The need for a good public transportation system is fully recognised and twenty new buses have recently been delivered. Better maintenance of the improved fleet will do much to improve schedules and facilitate closer integration with the improved ferry services.

Plans are under urgent consideration for the provision of better accommodation for the Judiciary.

A major reorganisation of the Department of Tourism will ensure that the staff react positively in this fast-changing market. New tourism markets will be explored, and a computerised data bank and direct telephone reservation service will be introduced.

The Tourism Department's concern over the sudden loss of the cruise ships operated by Holland America Cruise Line cannot be overstated. Continuing efforts are being made to provide replacement ships for the 1984 season.

In an effort to improve the hotel industry, plans are in hand to introduce, by January 1985, a grading system in our hotels. This will follow inspections and reports which are to be undertaken in 1984.

Government supports the programme being conducted by the hotel industry to reinforce the high quality of our service to tourists. This will run parallel with the proposed Government sponsored tourism awareness programme for the public at large.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Hon. House of Assembly

The Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the next financial year will be laid before you.

Mr. President and Members of the Senate

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Hon. House of Assembly

You will be invited in the coming year to consider legislation which will include the following:

The Companies Amendment Act

The Customs Tariff Amendment Act

The Pension Trust Funds Amendment Act

The Public Works Department Act

The Private Roads (Improvement) Act

The Civil Airports Amendment Act

The Pharmacy and Poisons Amendment Act

The Muslim Marriage Act

The Parliamentary Election Amendment Act

The Condominium Act

The Bermuda Housing Amendment Act

The Bermuda Government Scholarship Amendment Act

The Evidence Amendment Act

The Care and Protection of Animals (Commercial Horse Stores) Regulations

The Merchant Shipping (Medical Stores) Regulations

Government encourages the participation of all our people in decisions which will affect future generations. Government recognises the several options that present themselves for our future constitutional development but reaffirms that it will only take steps towards Independence when this is the wish of the majority of the people.

Plans are proceeding to mark 1984 as the 375th Anniversary of the arrival of the first inhabitants of these Islands. A full calendar of events is planned throughout the year which it is hoped will attract

the full participation of the public. It will be a significant time for us all, and one in which to take stock of our heritage and to give serious consideration to our future.

Despite adverse changes in our economic development and the onerous challenges of a world torn in so many areas by conflict and economic chaos, Bermudians have the good fortune to enjoy full employment, good working conditions, and prospects of further improvement and development in our sophisticated and progressive society — so that, unlike so many troubled and divided countries, we stand uniquely privileged in our way of life. By continued and united efforts, and with God's blessing, we can reasonably hope to enjoy these benefits in years to come.

I am told it is a custom that I may add some personal remarks at the end of this speech. Let me simply say that my wife and I are most grateful for all the many kindnesses and hospitality that have been shown to us since our arrival in Bermuda. We look forward very much to widening our associations with you and to serving Bermuda as best we can. Meanwhile it is an honour for me open Parliament on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen today, and I wish you well in your future work.

Mr. President and Members of the Senate

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Hon. House of Assembly

I now declare this Session open and may God guide you in all your deliberations.

Dunrossil

Governor and Commander-in-Chief

Senate Chamber

Hamilton Bermuda

November 4th, 1983

'Kill for Power' Charge

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 5 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

United Bermuda Party backbencher Dr. George Thomas yesterday claimed he had been told by an Opposition MP that they would be willing to "kill" to obtain power.

Dr. Thomas made the statement during yesterday's fiesty opening session of Parliament. But when contacted last night he refused to elaborate on his comment.

He had said earlier that there were people in Bermuda who were looking for an uprising.

And he went on: "When I decided to run in Hamilton West I was approached by an MP of the Opposition who said he would be willing to kill to get power. I looked at him and said, I don't believe you."

"I've nothing else to say about it," said Dr. Thomas when contacted at his home last night. "It was an accurate statement, and I have nothing to add or take away."

Leader of the Opposition Mrs. Lois Browne Evans last night refused to comment on the matter beyond what she said in the House of Assembly.

"I stood up and told him he should name the person," said Mrs. Browne Evans, adding, "I have no comment about George Thomas."

Dr. Thomas was speaking during the House motion to adjourn in support of the American invasion of Grenada.

Opposition PLP Reply

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 19 Nov 83 p 5

[PLP's reply to the Throne Speech delivered by Opposition Leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans]

[Text]

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members of the House of Assembly:

If one were to judge our coming Session by the amount of legislation we have been promised in this Throne Speech, you would expect our Legislators to be kept active right up until Christmas. However, Mr. Speaker, if experience can be our guide, not very many of these matters will in fact get enacted.

Mr. Speaker, in recent Throne Speeches and elsewhere, the Premier and his Cabinet Ministers continue to bombard the community with much rhetoric about the quality of life in Bermuda and how wonderful life is for everyone in Bermuda.

Mr. Speaker, no amount of repetition can make it so, when in truth, qualities of love and service to humanity, dedication and sincerity and a real sense of caring of brotherhood are disappearing from our families, neighbourhoods, and countrymen.

Recently the Government saw fit to contradict remarks made by an Opposition Senator at a C.P.A. Conference concerning the diminishing importance of the Legislature in Bermuda. Why this was done I cannot fathom, with this body sitting for only five to six months of the year, for a distinct impression has arisen in many persons' minds to the effect that Parliament, like the Bermuda Regiment, is reserved for ceremonial occasions.

Mr. Speaker, and Members of the Legislature, take a long hard look at our community; the very things that Government enunciates its concern for in the Speech, belie the statement that "the quality of life in Bermuda is so good". What does it matter to us that we are supposed to have the third highest income per capita of population in the world if we continue to fail in the achievement of racial harmony as suggested

in the Throne Speech, if we continue to fail to give our workers a fair share of the profits from their labour without protracted and brinkmanship negotiations and/or strikes? What does it matter if our crime rate continues to escalate and drug abuse flourishes? What does it matter when noise pollution and over-crowding reach alarming levels, and finally Mr. Speaker, what does it matter if we have the highest per capita income and the rudest and most disrespectful of road users and general abusers as again suggested in the Throne Speech.

The Opposition lays the blame for all the failures above on this Government. Mr. Speaker, the Government claims all the praise for our alleged economic gains, therefore to be consistent they must also lay claim to all the attendant ills. Too much has been laid at the altar of success. Our young are "programmed" to turn into "success cats" at all costs. A part of the corporate success story is the unspoken broken lives and friendships discarded on the way to "the top". Somewhere our value systems have become so distorted that we are now faced with the monumental task of how to bring order back into a society that just a mere fifteen to twenty years ago was truly a place where fundamental values prevailed. Today, we believe that in 21 square miles everyone should be left to do his own thing and to quote a former Cabinet Minister "we are not here to censor what people watch", and shortly we will soon hear someone say "neither are we here to censor what people do".

Mr. Speaker, the Opposition is sorely disappointed that in a Throne Speech, Government's official statement to the people, the Premier saw fit to simply "list" about fourteen or fifteen Amendment Acts that his Government proposes to bring to Parliament, and in about forty

"simple three-line paragraphs" give us a rerun of what Government has already published by way of weekly Cabinet Minister's Press Conferences.

The Speech has been aptly labelled by the Press and all others who have read it as "nothing new". I can only endorse those remarks. Within its 4½ pages every department of Government is "listed" and all the catch phrases are there. It is replete with promises, but when the session ends, Mr. Speaker, will the housing crisis be any better? Will the people ever live in Far Rock-away? What will have happened to the more than 600 householders who responded to Government's Crisis Survey. What will be the lot of Bermudians in the job market, both Government and private sector? Will they continue to hear Government's reiteration of its policy of "Bermudians first"; but in fact witness Bermudians being discarded "firstly" under the pretext of lacking in experience of some other "policy"? Will we continue to watch the "statistics game" of more and more Bermudians are owning their own homes, yet never a breakdown of "what type of Bermudian ownership"? Will they continue to ignore the Bermuda-born's claim? Like an ostrich our Government will continue to contend that there is no such division when all the rest of the Commonwealth countries recognise the distinction of country of birth (origin) as opposed to the process of naturalisation.

Mr. Speaker, Bermudians are surely beginning to see beyond the "veneer of caring" sold to them for electioneering purposes and are waking up to the nasty reality of eking out an existence in a country of supposed affluence. They are aware of the fact that nothing much has really changed and like our forebears they have to guard against economic reprisals and must fight to maintain the ideal of freedom of thought and expression.

HOME AFFAIRS

Once again a Throne Speech promises amendments to the Parliamentary Election Act. We expect these amendments will only take account of certain sections relating to the Registration of Voters. It is certain that nothing will be proposed to

equalise the constituencies throughout the whole Island nor to Bermudianise the vote. There is no desire of Government to give each vote an equal value in spite of its supposed love of participatory democracy. Nothing short of a radical overhaul of that Act can truly suffice.

The Progressive Labour Party has gone on record as favouring Independence. We have often stated our preconditions for Independence. One of our major preconditions is that Bermudians be prepared for Independence, and be given an opportunity to make their decision through the process of a General Election.

We have over the years called for a moratorium on the grant of Bermuda Status. We believe that the whole question of citizenship upon Independence ought to be sorted out during this moratorium period. We believe that a new class of residence called "permanent residence" should be created. Such a class of residence would include non-Bermudian spouses. The rights, privileges and responsibilities of this class of residence would be worked out and made clear to all. People will not be kept uncertain and unable to make long-term plans for their families.

Having sorted out the questions of citizenship and permanent residence, we can then lift the moratorium and continue to grant either status or permanent residence.

The Minister of Home Affairs proposes to use the band-aid approach by granting special concessions regarding work permits to non-Bermudian spouses. This is only a stop-gap measure and will only lead to greater confusion and frustration amongst those families with one non-Bermudian spouse.

The Progressive Labour Party believes that the family unit is the most important institution in our community. We further believe that the economic success of that unit is vitally important to its well-being. The present economic incumbrance placed on the foreign spouse and the foreseeable plans of the Government do not adequately address the needs of these families residing in Bermuda.

In the meanwhile our first responsibility must be to Bermudians. We have been inundated with complaints from construction workers.

housekeepers, secretaries and hotel workers who report that they have witnessed good jobs being given to non-Bermudians during the last nine months. The number of work permits granted has also risen but we have been unable to obtain from Government the exact number of such permits. We have been obliged to await the publication of the Manpower Survey.

Mr. Speaker, let us remind Government and all of Bermuda that it was the Progressive Labour Party who coined the phrase "Bermudianisation" and forced the United Bermuda Party to adopt it as its policy. We propose to be ever vigilant and we will not let Government water down the concept.

HOUSING

The right to a home or shelter is a prerequisite to good living by our philosophy. A Progressive Labour Party Government could not, Mr. Speaker, condone the anguish and pain being inflicted upon our people by this Government in this area. Government does not seem to have any idea as to the number of houses it must build yearly to eradicate our housing crisis. In a country of much affluence for some, none need to be without a home. Words, words, tons of words, have been uttered by the Government on this topic but yet the rate of growth in the provision of rentable units never gets close to the demand; daily the demand increases with each new family unit created either by marriage or the new concept of "palimony".

Mr. Speaker, Government continues to provide homes for those who can afford to purchase their own homes. Those persons unable to do so, due to low income and/or a lack of skills with which to earn more, are abandoned by both Government and the private sector.

Our Party repeats the call for Government to forthwith set up an "Emergency Housing Scheme" whereby those in desperate need can be housed. We call upon Government to act now and not to wait until the week before Christmas to hand out another five keys with much publicity in front of our newspaper and television cameras.

We call upon Government to ascertain, as our Shadow Minister has done, the number of unoccupied

units and then to follow that up by realistic negotiations with the owners, in order to achieve their occupancy with the owner's cooperation.

Now is the time for action, not woolly dreams.

TOURISM

Mr. Speaker, it has always been the belief of the Progressive Labour Party that however we might diversify the economy, tourism will always be our number one industry.

Of recent years, under the ascendancy of the Finance Ministry, one felt that the United Bermuda Party Government was giving greater attention to the international business sector of our economy rather than to our tourist sector. Tourism was knocked off its pedestal and in centre stage was reinsurance and exempted companies; and in the wings, as the Finance Minister's threat, "off-shore banking".

The legacy of this relegation has now surfaced with the discovery and revelation that we now

- (a) need to grade our hotels;
- (b) renovate run-down properties and upgrade the facilities;
- (c) look for new cruise ships;
- (d) suffer from the lack of training and encouragement of Bermudians in our main industry; and finally,
- (f) the debacle over timesharing and its attendant disgrace on Bermuda's name world-wide.

Mr. Speaker, our Shadow Minister will deal with these topics more fully when he speaks on his portfolio. Suffice it for me to say a Progressive Labour Party Government will ever be committed to the full utilisation of our greatest resource and asset to tourism, that is our Bermudian people. Our hotel workers love their work and only this week, Mr. Speaker, the Coral Island staff were willing to manage the hotel in return for gratuities, in order to prevent the closure of its doors. Possibly the time is now for Government to enter into our main industry as our sister island Bahamas had to do a few years ago.

THE ECONOMY

Government must be committed to a strategy for growth that will establish and accommodate a condition for economic and ecological stability that is in keeping with our needs and our limited resources.

The present course of Government is to permit growth without thought to the needs of the majority of Bermudians. The result of this policy is that there is a flood of non-Bermudian workers, congestion on our roads, a critical shortage of housing and frustration of Bermudians which arguably has led to an increased use of drugs and an escalation in the rate of crime.

Government's attempts to correct the ills which have resulted from this rapid growth strategy have also failed. Their housing programme is misdirected as the private sector remains a reluctant partner in the development of housing. Further, there is no adequate programme for the provision of long-term loans necessary to provide low-income housing for those Bermudians in real need.

This rapid growth strategy has placed strains on the support services to the hotel and international business to the point that we now face the risk of pricing ourselves out of the market.

Government's management of their growth policy and its spin-offs have led to Government's failure to adequately police and manage the vital areas of our economy. Recently we have seen a rash of failure of overseas companies in the international sector and lately the failure of one time-sharing operation in the tourism sector.

We in the Progressive Labour Party reiterate our call for a growth rate which reflects the needs of all Bermuda.

BALANCE OF PAYMENT

The growth policy of the Government has led to sharp increases in the payments of unrequited remittances. Cash gifts, payments under wills and the transfer of emigrant assets is on the increase, a direct result of an increased overseas workforce. An increase in unrequited payments and rapid growth in commercial development has led to a decline in our surplus in the Balance of Payments.

Are we developing our limited resources for the benefit of overseas workers?

Net Capital Investments will have to be more closely monitored. Has the Monetary Authority the power to carry out this function? Can we

actually say the figures given in the Annual Monetary Authority Report under "Balance of Payments", yields a true and accurate picture of the total currency flow in Economy?

Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to touch upon all of the Government departments in this written Response. The respective Shadow Ministers of the remaining portfolios will deal with the topics of Government's new Education Policy, the new Bus Garage, the new Sports complex, the new St. Brendan's Hospital, and Government's overall plans with respect to Planning. But in conclusion I felt that it was only proper to make some comment on our new portfolio of Telecommunications.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Much seems to have been going on during Parliament's recess. A Green Paper on Telecommunications has been promised.

A Green Paper on Telecommunications should present the options open to Bermuda for the future. Certainly a major option is Government's participation in any agency which will control this important aspect of our future.

While promising a Green Paper, the Minister has already gone ahead and organised the private sector into a consortium made up of "Front Street Businesses" to prepare for the ownership and control of a major sector of Bermuda's telecommunications.

Once again the United Bermuda Party Government has taken an asset which properly belongs to the people of Bermuda and handed it over to a small group of preferred Bermudians. The Minister should have sought Parliamentary direction before embarking on such a course. We say he has put the cart before the horse and demonstrated once again the rubber-stamp nature of Parliament.

While the Government approved the Bermuda Broadcasting Company's take-over of the Capital Broadcasting Company Limited, the country was promised that the two News departments would remain separate and independent.

Less than a year later, the Bermuda Broadcasting Company has stripped Channel 8 of its major Newscasts and for all intents and

purposes there is now only one News Department.

These recent moves have further placed the control of the dissemination of News in Bermuda in the hands of a few. This position becomes more ominous when it is known that the directorship of Bermuda Press Holdings Limited and the Bermuda Broadcasting Company Limited are interlocking.

How does this leave the Community? It means that the daily printed word and the electronic word are under the control of a few powerful men.

Mr. Speaker, this country must voice its opinion and call upon Government to take steps to break up the stranglehold that exists over the dissemination of News in Bermuda. To go on as we have since February, 1983 spells disaster. Government and the Press must have conspired to withhold the news about the Finance Minister's "witch hunt" against the last Governor, and also to withhold the Gurr Report which, if released, would certainly have caused havoc with the United Bermuda Party's public relations campaign.

Mr. Speaker, the Opposition calls upon the community to genuinely and openly articulate the many concerns about which we individually and collectively receive telephone calls.

Now is the time to speak up.

CSO: 3298/264

PLP, UBP TRADE CHARGES, ACCUSATIONS OVER VARIOUS ISSUES

Blame for Timeshare Failure

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 18 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

Government weakened its timesharing legislation by removing a clause designed to protect investors in the event of the kind of the collapse that has happened at the Coral Island Club.

That comment was made yesterday by Shadow Tourism Minister Mr Stanley Morton who spelled out the reasons for his claim that Government should shoulder the responsibility for the Coral Island failure.

Mr. Morton accused the Tourism Minister of rushing into an area that had not been fully tested and then being less than vigilant in monitoring the progress of the timeshare clubs.

He said that pressure applied by timesharing companies caused Government to amend its original timeshare legislation which was designed to insure Bermuda against problems experienced elsewhere.

The original bill called for all money from sales to go into an escrow account. Developers would be able to get the money only after five years.

"This clause would have protected Bermuda's good name," said Mr. Morton.

But the bill was amended "after pressure was brought to bear by companies plan-

ning to enter timesharing and presumably Coral Island was included in this group.

"Thus the legislation passed a mere two years ago allows developers to get up to 35 percent of their money two weeks after sales are completed and the remainder — minus 5 percent in a sinking fund for repairs — as soon as the units are ready for occupation."

Mr. Morton continued: "The fact that participants in the timesharing at Coral Island have been left without any assurances about the future of their investments causes me particular concern in light of the fact that guests are quoted as saying that at the time of purchasing 'we were led to believe that Bermuda was so strict with its timesharing laws there was no way that owners would lose money.'

"I feel it is incumbent on the Minister to see that Bermuda's side of the responsibility is upheld and I call on him to reveal what funds are remaining in any escrow account."

Government should have policed timesharing clubs the way it handles other companies in tourism and

international business," said Mr. Morton.

At the beginning of the year the Finance Minister stopped international company Ajax Insurance from writing business. It should use the same standards with timesharing.

It should also have been more vigilant of what was happening in the experimental field of timesharing. Mr. Morton recalled that the Opposition had called for timesharing to be restricted to the St. George's property until it had time to prove itself.

"There were factors documented in the the country's daily paper which should have aroused concern," said Mr. Morton.

"It was known and reported in a Business Week article in June 11, 1981, that Coral Island had started the March 1980 with a deficit of more than \$1.25 million.

"No figures were available for the first AGM under its new ownership and hopes of economic recovery were pinned on timesharing."

Coral Island was bought from Belhaven Brewery for an estimated \$1.5 million in 1980 and taken over by co-owners Daniel and Pat Venter.

Failure of Bermudianization

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 25 Nov 83 pp 1, 6

[Text]

Government's policy of Bermudianisation has failed over the past 20 years, according to Shadow Minister of Home Affairs Mr. Frederick Wade. Speaking at a Progressive Labour Party forum held last night at the Manchester Unity Hall in Hamilton, Mr. Wade said that what held true in the 1960s about Bermudianisation still applied.

"Bermuda has not moved one step," said Mr. Wade, displaying a copy of the 1963 Report on the Commission of Employment and Training, headed by Sir John Bowman.

"It is amazing how this report is so current," said Mr. Wade. "We pride ourselves on having made so much progress, but everything has remained the same."

The report pointed out that not enough Bermudians were being given employment opportunities, but at the same time quoted employers complaining that not enough Bermudians were sufficiently trained and experienced.

"The policy over the past decade has been Bermudianisation," said Mr. Wade. "But it is only lip service. The policies have not been put into practice."

The 1963 report also recommended that an educationalist be brought into the Island to examine the educational system. That was in 1963, said Mr. Wade, adding that only this year an American expert was commissioned to do the same thing.

Twenty years after the report was published, some of the advice given could come back here in terms of making the same speech at the time were being made.

Also speaking at the forum, Mr. Wade said that Bermudianisation

immigration and training were Bermuda Industrial Union organiser Mr. Kenyatta Young, and Bermuda Provident Bank Deputy Manager Mr. Alan Pestell.

Mr. Young said that the BIU was often involved in complaints lodged by Bermudians aggrieved because they had been passed over for promotion in favour of a non-Bermudian.

And he added that it was very difficult to understand Government's immigration policy because it was almost impossible to determine if the Immigration Department has investigated such complaints.

"Is Bermudianisation a reality or is it just lip service," asked Mr. Young. "Why is it so hard for us to get these jobs?"

He suggested that while many Bermudians were "suitably qualified", many may not be both "qualified and suitable" because they may not be willing to maintain the status quo.

Mr. Pestell said that the Provident Bank had a determined Bermudianisation policy, but he warned that the local international business industry required high standards of training and expertise.

"I personally believe that it would be a mistake to Bermudianise prematurely," said Mr. Pestell. "To employ unqualified Bermudians would undermine Ber-

muda's position as an international financial market."

"Simply being a Bermudian does not give you the right to a job. Only an ability and expertise to do it well gives that right. Bermudianisation is not as easy as it sounds, and is being achieved slower than many would wish."

Mr. Wade said that the PLP had gone on record in favour of a moratorium being declared on the granting of Bermudian status until the entire question of Independence was sorted out.

He suggested that the elimination of Bermudian status would benefit non-Bermudians working in the Island because it could then not be used as a lever.

"The non-Bermudian workers would then understand their position in Bermuda could not be oppressed by an employer who held the promise of Bermudian Status over their head," said Mr. Wade.

Mr. Wade said that over the years the population growth of "paper" white Bermudians had outstripped the growth of the born white Bermudian population. He suggested that this may have been a deliberate policy of Government.

Slap at UBP on King Holiday

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 3 Dec 83 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt]

Government was last night accused of creating a Martin Luther King holiday simply as a political con-trick prompted by the US decision to honour the murdered civil rights leader.

The charge was consistently denied by Government MPs who said the day would be for Bermudians to honour the man and had nothing to do with the US move.

But when Opposition MP Ottiwell Simmons asked Government to show their sincerity by inaugurating the holiday in 1984 rather than in 1986 as planned in the U.S. Government unanimously rejected the idea on the grounds it would take two years to prepare for the day.

The proposal that Martin Luther King Day be celebrated on the third Monday of January was approved. All Government MPs voted in favour while most of the Opposition were against it. But PLP member Walter Roberts voted in favour, with Reginald Burrows (PLP) abstaining.

The PLP argued throughout the day that although they held Dr. King in great esteem, it was wrong to honour a foreigner with a national holiday when several Bermudians were worthy of the tribute. A PLP amendment to change the name of the holiday to National Heroes' Day was defeated.

The votes came at the end of a nine-hour debate in which MPs vied with each other to see who could remember most incidents from

Dr. King's life, or could recall most quotes.

The strongest attack on the plan for a holiday came in a stirring speech from Mr. Simmons. He said the PLP was in a "Catch-22" situation. They did not agree with the holiday, but knew they would be criticised for opposing a holiday to honour a man of the undoubted stature of Dr. King.

Opposition members revered him as much as anybody, but a principle was involved. Dr. King had been shot in 1968, but the UBP Government had never made any move to honour him until the United States had proclaimed a national holiday.

"What I have heard from them (UBP) today is the greatest piece of hypocrisy I have ever heard in my life," he said.

"They were all alive and kicking and knew of Dr. King in his heyday. They know when he died. But it was not until 1983 they decided to have a holiday."

"It was when the US Senate passed it that the Premier, one guy, sat up and said he wants to declare a Martin Luther King Day. But not next year, it will be in 1986."

"We are not here to discuss honouring Martin King — they are just trying to win political points."

When the possibility of a Labour Day had been discussed to honour the workers of Bermuda, Government had dithered for months. They said it would create too many holidays, and would mean loss of business. Yet within a few weeks they had brought through the plan for a Dr. King holiday.

The UBP, said Mr. Simmons, tried to project itself as a caring party to the blacks of Bermuda and thought they could enhance that image by using the con-trick of a Dr. King day, knowing that he was one of the greatest blacks the world had known.

"They (UBP) are just kowtowing to the United States," he said.

"If they are not, why have they not done something since 1968. It is not fair to the people who have struggled against the establishment in this country to say we are going to honour someone who has never set foot in this land — and that is no disrespect to Dr. King."

"I know that if the Opposition Leader had suggested this holiday before the US Senate approved it you would have heard criticism from everyone. Why doesn't this Government get things done that people are crying out for."

"People have been asking for unemployment compensation for years. I would like to know who are the people in the community who have been asking for a Martin Luther King Day?"

"I would like to know where else in the world a nation has a holiday to pay homage to a person not from that nation? Which other countries in the world are having a holiday for Dr. King?"

"We are still a British colony. Does the United States have a holiday for someone who is British because of what they have done in Britain?"

"We oppose this not on the grounds that Martin Luther King is not worthy, but that the UBP, in its hypocrisy, is putting forward a holiday to honour him when in fact they are seeking political advantage."

Swan Attack on PLP

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 3 Dec 83 pp 1, 5

[Text]

Premier John Swan launched a stunning, full-blooded attack on the PLP last night in one of the most rousing speeches he has ever made in the House of Assembly.

His stinging 30 minute rebuke came after Opposition Leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans recounted the histories of the PLP and UBP during debate on plans for a national holiday to honour Martin Luther King.

She said many Bermudians were still suffering because of UBP policies over the years.

They have done pretty well and Mr Swan, pointing to the Opposition benches.

They have their three-piece suits, their big cars, their fancy homes, their big boats, their swimming pools and their holidays abroad. But then they tell you they are all for the little man.

When they talk about Bermudianisation it is obvious that what they mean is black Bermudianisation. This country is moving ahead of that. They are an anachronism because they are out of step with what is happening in this country.

They keep talking about changes and reforms, but I have never yet heard them make constructive alterations to the policies we have adopted. One would

think they would have realised between 1968 and 1983 that people are looking for them to provide something constructive so that people could judge whether they would be a responsible Government.

"Dr. King talked of climbing the mountain but they refuse to. One might call it laziness. But I think it is lack of vision.

"I hope that one day they might have that dream and go to the mountain top because this country will be better for it. We are tired of being on the mountain top and trying to pull them up there.

"What helps to run this country are Government boards. We invite them to join but they say they don't

want to because it might compromise their positions. Dr. King said make sure you are part of the process.

"The Opposition holds this country back as far as racial integration goes. Maybe the 43 percent who voted for them just feel they are being held back because they identify with what the PLP says.

"What the PLP see are their own objectives and they have done pretty well for themselves. But they would like it hidden. They sit on the Front Street boards. They have their directorships. They are on the boards of the banks.

"If that is all so bad, why don't they give them up? But no, they want to hold on to them and get some more."

CSO: 3298/265

UNION LEADERS CRITICIZE EMPLOYER, GOVERNMENT ATTITUDES

Public Service Workers' Charges

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 16 Nov 83 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Employers will have to change their anti-union attitudes if Bermuda wants to maintain economic stability, Mr. John Payne, president of the Bermuda Public Services Association said yesterday.

The BPSA chief blasted Government's Green Paper on labour relations for what he said was its anti-union stance and he urged that employers accept unions as "worthy economic partners."

Speaking at the Hamilton Rotary Club Mr. Payne said: "It does concern us that the value of the trade unions as an economic entity is not appreciated by the employer group."

The contents of the Green Paper on labour relations laws contains the perceptions of a misinformed, misguided group whose solutions to the problem stop just short of elimination of trade unions.

Our impact on the economy is not always known or published. A union fought to ensure that employees' salaries and vacation benefits are amongst the

preferred creditors in a bankruptcy case.

"The pressure of unions caused the re-evaluation of the consumer expenditure survey which form the basis of the Retail Price Index. The health and safety legislation, whose benefit is yet to be seen, is the direct result of union influence.

"I contend that in order for there to be economic growth, economic stability and a maintained level in our standard of living, those views to control, minimise or dissolve the unions must change.

"We do not believe that legally binding contracts are the answer. Or supervision by Government of ballots before calling for a strike or industrial action. Or making the hotel industry an essential service.

"What I do believe is the recognition of the union's right to organise and bargain collectively; the acceptance that the white collar workers have the right to organise without any opposition; the acceptance that the trade union is a worthy economic

partner will ensure stability and harmony for our people to survive these precarious world economic times."

Unions did not set out to "kill the goose that laid the golden egg", Mr. Payne said. It was not true that they tried to get as much as possible without any concern for the employer's ability to pay.

The BPSA's economic outlook was based on "Bermuda: An Economic Review" which predicts consolidation rather than real growth for the 80's; the increasing gross domestic product which has risen by four percent during the same period that real income rose by 2.7 percent; Finance Ministry predictions of a future growth rate of about 2.5-3 percent; and a commitment that workers' living standards should not be reduced while local costs are kept down.

"We in the BPSA have tried to play our part in this economic partnership. However the other part, the employers, are not always keeping their end up."

Salary increases of 7.5 percent gained in the BPSA's recent negotiations represented real growth, said Mr. Payne. But the growth was less than 2.7 percent in real terms over recent years.

Industrial Union Complaint

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 17 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] Bermuda Industrial Union President Mr. Ottiwell Simmons last night accused Government of "outright negligence" in its handling of the Safety at Work Act.

The Act, approved in the House of Assembly in May, 1982, was designed to safeguard the health of workers in their jobs.

But so far it has not been enforced, because Government is still trying to sort out safety regulations for the various industries involved.

In the meantime, there have been two serious industrial accidents--one involving a Belco lineman who fell onto his head while trying to repair some wires, and the other involving an SAL employee who had to have his leg amputated after it was caught in a stonecrushing machine.

Mr. Simmons said the union had brought the matter to the attention of Government several times, with "numb response".

"It's almost like they don't even realise they've got an Act at all," he said.

An Advisory Council for Health and Safety has been set up to work out regulations for ensuring the safety of workers on the job, and a Health and Safety officer, Mr. Peter Mickleburgh, brought in to assist.

"They've had him here for about nine months now, I think, and to the best of my knowledge, he is not able to get anything done. Nothing's been done," the BIU president said.

"It's just outright neglect on the part of Government, that's all it is. If they were really serious about protecting the worker, and the employer, too, against industrial hazards, obviously they would have been doing much more than they have been."

The law makes it the responsibility of every employer "so far as is reasonably practicable" to ensure the health, safety and welfare at work of all employees.

Employees are also required to take care to protect not only their own health, but also that of any colleagues who might be affected by their work.

Under the Act, all businesses employing five workers are obliged to set up their own health and safety committees, and employers breaking the law will face maximum penalties of a year in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

But Mr. Simmons complained that while Government was trying to sort out the particulars of the Act, there were "any number of hazardous situations just staring everybody in the face."

Labour and Home Affairs Minister the Hon. Sir John Sharpe was last night unavailable for comment.

CSO: 3298/266

U.S. ACTION SAID TO IMPEDE SIGNING OF PRISONER EXCHANGE PACT

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 2 Nov 83 pp 1, 5

[Text] Government is willing to enter into a prisoner exchange treaty with the US if the Americans agree to honour rehabilitation declarations given to former Bermudian prisoners who have stayed out of trouble for seven years.

Such an agreement would allow American prisoners spending time in local jails to complete their time in US prisons and permit Bermudians who have had their criminal records wiped clean by rehabilitation to visit the US.

The Bermuda Government is willing to enter into a prisoner exchange treaty with the US if the Americans agree to honour rehabilitation declarations given to former Bermudian prisoners who have stayed out of trouble for seven years, the Minister of Health and Social Services said today.

"We have people who had served their time and have been granted rehabilitation and who cannot get to the United States," Dr. James explained. "What we would like to get the Americans to agree to is that if they have been granted rehabilitation, they should be able to visit the US."

"If the Americans were willing to negotiate a treaty with Bermuda, we would be willing to negotiate a treaty with the US," Dr. James said.

Dr. James said that the Bermuda Government is willing to enter into a prisoner exchange treaty with the US if the Americans agree to honour rehabilitation declarations given to former Bermudian prisoners who have stayed out of trouble for seven years.

The US has been unwilling to enter into a prisoner exchange treaty with Bermuda, Dr. James said.

prisoner exchange treaty between Bermuda and the US. Since that time, the ten-nation Council of Europe ratified a Convention of the Treatment of Sentenced Persons.

The UK is currently drawing up a bill containing the provisions of that convention

and has asked Bermuda and other dependent territories whether it wishes to be included in legislation covering international prisoner exchange treaties.

But Dr. James said Bermuda was putting the UK request on hold. His Ministry had not received one request from a Bermudian prisoner in a foreign jail who wanted to finish serving his sentence here.

Yet the Ministry was bombarded with complaints from former prisoners who could not enter the US because their names, put on the US stop list at the time of their conviction, had not been deleted when rehabilitation was received.

Rehabilitation is given by the Ministry of Health and

Social Services to those who have served prison sentences of three years or less and who remain out of trouble for seven years after conviction.

A person with rehabilitation is not bound to reveal his criminal record. The Act, Dr. James said, also made it an offence for anyone to disclose that a person has had a conviction once he has been rehabilitated.

Since the Act came into effect in 1977, 326 people have been declared rehabilitated.

"All these people are on the (US) stop list," said Dr. James. "This is unfair. We are not asking the US to take hardened criminals."

US Consul Mr. Paul Kline said the Consulate was willing to discuss the matter with Dr. James. But the Consulate, on the advice of the State Department, was only interpreting US law. Under US law, "you cannot rewrite history."

GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPMENT PLAN 'LAST HOPE' TO SAVE OPEN SPACE

Conservationist View

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 23 Nov 83 p 3

[Text]

Bermuda's last hopes of conserving its remaining open spaces rest with Government's long-awaited development plan, the National Trust has warned.

The stark view was given by the Trust's open spaces committee chairman Mr. David Wingate, who is also Government's conservation officer.

"If this plan does not address the crux of open space conservation realistically, or if it fails to win the necessary public support, then Bermuda will never have another chance," Mr. Wingate said in the Trust's annual report.

"The extent of environmental damage is so great that protective measures in a few years time will be too late."

Mr. Wingate's warning was coupled with an equally frank assessment from the Trust's president, Lt. Col. Michael Darling.

The next two years will provide the turning point for the Island's environment, Mr. Darling said in the president's message.

"The situation is now at a crisis level and we look forward to a positive lead from Government," he said.

and so it is up to them to overcome individual preferences and to advise and stick to a policy that considers the future needs of all of our people.

"The demand for housing must be directed into urban areas and our remaining open space kept from the developers who can only see today."

The Trust will discover this week if the development plan comes up to their hopes. The Hon. Haskins Davis, Minister of Planning and the Environment, has announced that he will table the document in the House of Assembly on Friday.

He also plans to hold a Press conference later in the day to explain it in detail.

The new Bermuda Planning Statement replaces the 1971 development plan and follows the study of arable land and open spaces which Government has carried out over the last two years. It will govern development in Bermuda for at least the next five years.

Mr. Wingate was delegated to the planning team which carried out the open spaces survey from July last year until May this year.

Housing-Conservation Dilemma

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 26 Nov 83 p 2

[Text]

Government yesterday unveiled its new Bermuda Development Plan designed to strike a balance between the need for housing and the need to conserve the Island's dwindling open spaces.

But the Hon. Haskins Davis, Minister of Planning, conceded that the plan, which comes into effect immediately, may run into opposition. And he added that a two month objection period had been set aside to hear objections.

"I think you will have a conflict of opinions," said Mr. Davis, adding, "There are going to be those people who want to develop and those who want to conserve land."

"We are going to have to tuck these new houses into a smaller area, and protect the environment as much as possible. We don't expect everyone to agree."

The new plan replaces both the Bermuda Development Plan 1974 and the Environmental Conservation Areas Local Plans 1980, and was prepared on the basis of a series of recent surveys.

The policies and recommendations set out in the Local Plans for Somerset Village, Pitts Bay-Rosemont, Flatts Village and Blue Hole Hill are considered part of the new plan.

Introduction of the new plan also brings the moratorium on subdivision development to an end, said Mr. Davis.

"I don't think the new plan allows for more development, but it goes a long way to say where it can take place," said Mr. Davis at a Press conference held at the Cabinet Office to announce the plan.

The new plan is designed to remain in effect until the year 2000, and retains many of the basic concepts and planning strategies established in 1974.

"But new trends are unfolding, and new households are forming faster than dwelling units can be completed," said the Planning Department's pamphlet explaining the new plan.

"The balance to be sought is that between retaining environmental quality and allowing optimal development on land suitable for housing."

Planning Director Mr. Erwin Adderley said that residential development was being encouraged in three primary areas - the Pitts Bay-Rosemont, Somerset and Hamilton.

The new plan incorporates three new residential zonings - clustered low density, garden district and rural.

"The object of these new residential zonings is the optimum use of housing land," said the plan pamphlet. "In conjunction with these new range of zonings comes a recognition of forms of housing that were previously not acknowledged."

Attached houses can now be built without having to have the appearance of a single house. 'Village' houses are now recognised as a form of housing different from apartment buildings.

"Apartment development is permitted in all of the residential areas other than rural. To promote such development, maximum density and maximum height are left to the discretion of the Development Applications Board."

Planning applications which have already been submitted to the Department of Planning will be dealt with under the old law.

Copies of the new Planning Statement, an updated Report of Survey, and a new set of zoning maps are being made available for inspection at the Department of Planning offices and at parish sub-post offices. The Planning Statement can also be purchased for \$10 and the Report of Survey for \$7.50.

Objections to the new plan must be submitted in writing to the Department of Planning not later than January 27, 1984. A tribunal will look into the objections and complete its findings by the later part of 1984.

CSO: 3298/266

ISLAND'S MARINE POLLUTION CONTROLS PRAISED BY EXPERTS

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 1 Dec 83 p 5

[Excerpts]

The biggest weakness in Bermuda's marine pollution contingency plans is what to do with the proceeds of a major oil spill once they have been contained.

At present, the Island would probably be able to dispose of small quantities in such areas as landfill projects, but there is no ready-made solution for dealing with large quantities.

This became clear at the first session of the Marine Pollution Contingency Committee's three-day training course which began yesterday.

According to guest lecturer, Dr. Tosh Moller, biologist with the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation, Bermuda's response capability is not inconsiderable.

"In fact, it deserves every praise we can give it," he said, but in the final analysis "it is only a first aid response. If there is a major oil spill, there will be major problems. All oil spills generate that, and it is not an inadequacy on the part of those who respond."

This view was shared by Dr. Walwyn Hughes, Director of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, who organised the course.

"We have some concepts," he said, "but we do not have particular solutions. The solution would depend on the scale of the spill. One of the things a contingency plan does is teach you to react quickly to a situation, rather than follow a particular protocol."

The International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation is the only organisation in the world dealing with responses to oil pollution emergencies on a full-time basis.

When the tanker Tifoso foundered on the Northeast Breakers in January this year, Dr. Moller was sent to Bermuda to represent the vessel's third party insurers.

Discussions at that time with Dr. Walwyn Hughes, Director of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, led to organisation of the present Marine Pollution Contingency Committee course.

Bermuda's Marine Pollution Contingency Committee was formed about four years ago, and part of its function is to develop a response capability for oil and chemical spills.

In an emergency, the various elements involved would be expected to function as a smooth-running unit.

BRIEFS

REJECTION OF U.S. TAX PLAN--Government has rejected a US proposal for an Exchange of Information Agreement in return for tax concessions for American businesses holding conventions in Bermuda. The Hon. David Gibbons, Minister of Finance, told the House of Assembly in a statement yesterday that Government met with US Treasury Department officials in Washington earlier this month. "The current US legislation does not automatically extend convention tax concessions to any 'beneficiary country' unless an Exchange of Information Agreement has been reached," said Mr. Gibbons. "A draft agreement put forward by the American delegation was rejected by us as being unacceptable in view of the effect it may have on Bermuda's international business sector and alternatives presented by us will now be considered by them. It is expected that further talks will occur in the future." In exchange for the tax concessions, the US Government wanted an agreement that would provide for an exchange of information between the two countries. Government has stated that it would be willing to provide in clear criminal matters, but was unwilling to go further. Mr. Gibbons travelled to Washington with Attorney General Mr. Saul Froomkin QC and retired Secretary to the Cabinet Mr. James Williams. They met with the US team on November 9 and 10. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 19 Nov 83 p 1]

EXCESS GOVERNMENT SPENDING--Government spent \$7 million more than it had planned on in the financial year 1981-82, with the bulk of the cash going on pay rises. The extra spending for that year has only just been announced--20 months after the end of that financial year. A Finance Ministry spokesman said a number of factors had caused such a long delay. There had been several changes among the top staff in the department; some posts were not filled for lengthy periods; illness among staff; and a complicated technical matter concerning student loans. Most of the extra \$7.1 million went on wage increases to workers represented by the Bermuda Public Services Association. Other large amounts included \$636,000 in pay rises to teachers, and \$587,000 to the Tourism Department for an advertising blitz in the United States to counter the effects of the 1981 strikes. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 29 Nov 83 p 3]

FREIGHT INCREASE--Bermuda has logged an estimated eight percent increase in the amount of freight imported through the Hamilton freight docks over the past 10 months, General Manager of Stevedoring Services, Mr. Michael Lohan, said yesterday. But Lohan expressed doubt that the increase would be

sustained through the New Year. "Tonnage is up over last year by about eight percent," said Mr. Lohan. "I don't see the increase continuing into the next year, but neither do I see a falling off of freight." Freight volume has increased by about 15 percent over the past 15 years from 214,000 tonnes in 1970 to about 250,000 tonnes a year today. Much of the tonnage increase over the past year is due to the Government house building programmes, strong tourism, and booming construction industry. [text]
[Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 2 Nov 83 p 23]

CSO: 3298/207

ACCELERATION IN CAMPAIGNING OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES NOTED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Nov 83 p 5

[Article by Carlos Chagas]

[Text] The contest for the presidential succession under the provisions of the current rules of the game (that is to say, indirect elections) acquired new impetus this week. Despite the indecisiveness and perplexity of Gen Joao Figueiredo--and despite the confusion prevailing in the PDS [Social Democratic Party] and the appearance of new and conflicting theories that range from the introduction of parliamentarism to the creation of a stopgap presidency, and from the reelection of the current president to a return to direct elections--the "indirect" candidates either speeded up their respective campaigns or imparted a new connotation to them. Perhaps precisely because of the uproar caused by the diverse ideas being contemplated or being developed, they decided not to wait any longer. They decided to increase their efforts to the maximum--to go forth in search of votes and to consolidate their aspirations--precisely as a means of taking action, attempting to consolidate the results of that action, and inducing the president of the republic to reestablish the coordination that had been interrupted and to make up his mind as soon as possible as to whom among them he will support.

Aureliano Chaves broke his silence on Friday in Rio when he addressed 800 businessmen from Rio de Janeiro State. In his address he established certain basic concepts with respect to economic and political affairs. From now on he will make use of all opportunities that come his way to speak out more as a candidate than as vice president of the republic. Without criticizing the government and its directives, he will develop positions based on alternatives that will reflect significant changes. He is attempting gradually to establish a plan of action while at the same time necessarily increasing contacts with PDS and opposition politicians, to the extent that his candidacy must reflect a consensus in order to be credible. He knows he is not the first choice of the president (who would prefer other options) but is confident that Figueiredo will fulfill his function as coordinator of the presidential succession process and place the national interest above all else.

Minister of the Interior Mario Andreazza is another who has changed his posture. He has grown tired of waiting for some sign--some outward indication--of Figueiredo's preference that might herald the beginning of his campaign. He has decided to launch his campaign without any such expression by the chief executive. Since Monday he has no longer been preventing friends and supporters from setting up committees in his behalf. On the contrary; he is now even encouraging the formation of these committees and will be appearing before each of them in the various states. He believes that at the present time he can count on a majority of the 950 PDS convention delegates. He emphasizes that the selection process is an intraparty matter and therefore cannot be carried out on the basis of a consensus or suprapartisan agreement--or even on the basis of debate. After all, he believes, the PDS won this right at the ballot box, and if he aspires to be elected by the party he will govern in conjunction with the party, sharing responsibilities. He will ask the PDS to draw up a plan for governing, and if elected will staff his cabinet with PDS people. In his view (and according to analyses and reports he has received) there is no basis in fact for the impression given by the supporters of Paulo Maluf to the effect that the former governor of Sao Paulo already regards himself as elected. The minister of the interior says he can count on a majority of the known votes. He hopes to increase the ranks of his supporters from now on, and plans to do so by winning over individual delegates. He was in Goias on Wednesday, and for 17 hours out of the 24 devoted himself to political work. He will make a new tour within the next few days--this time in the Northeast--and hopes to have toured the entire country by February.

Although Paulo Maluf--unlike Aureliano Chaves and Mario Andreazza--had already been at work for quite a while, he has now announced that he will redouble his efforts. On the basis of his calculations he expects to be victorious, but does not intend to run any risk. His strategy will involve trips, visits, mass meetings, and the customary utilization of his unique methods of attracting support, which go so far as to make him appear to be the candidate favoring the independence of the political sector--as one who is capable of reestablishing its prestige and making it a participant.

Helio Beltran is the one exception in the group, in that he says the time has not yet come to line up supporters and campaign in an organized manner. He will in the meantime continue his efforts to "sensitize" public opinion, with special attention to the business community, leaving the PDS convention delegates for a little later.

Marco Maciel, another of the candidates, believes it is important to continue his trips and his pronouncements. He seeks to establish himself as the favorite of the Northeast. He rejects the allegation that he is following this course so that in the end he will emerge as the strongest candidate for the vice presidency, although he says he is indeed running for the presidency. One who does not deny that he aspires to the number two spot is the current president of the Chamber of Deputies, Flavio Marcilio, although his campaign does not involve long trips. His constituents are largely those over whom he presides and with whom he mingles on a daily basis.

One sees--in all the candidates for indirect election--a redoubling of enthusiasm and effort that coincides with the approach of the parliamentary recess beginning on 5 December. It will be during this break in the legislative labors that the candidates will strive hardest, in dialogue almost on a one-on-one basis, to consolidate and win support. At this point, however, strategies diverge. Maluf hopes to arrive in Brasilia in March with his team already selected. Andreazza is attempting to organize a formal team before that time, whereas Aureliano believes that the definitive organization of a team will take a little while longer and will not take place before May or June of 1964. All three candidates, however, need to have the rules of the game remain unchanged, for there is no doubt--for example--that their chances would be nil in a direct election. Despite the fact that the former governor of Sao Paulo proclaims--in his peculiar style--that he will win in any event, he will not win. Neither he, nor the vice president, nor the minister of the interior, will win. Privately, all three reject--and criticize--the options of a stop-gap presidency, the parliamentary system, and reelection, while Andreazza--more so than the others--feels obliged, out of loyalty to Figueiredo, to say that he will agree to whatever the president decides to do. That is indeed not a good thing.

10992

CSO: 5342/20

GOVERNORS ISSUE DOCUMENT CALLING FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Nov 83 p 7

/Text/ "The direct election of the president of the republic is the way to overcome our economic, political and social crisis." This statement is contained in the document signed yesterday by all the governors elected by the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], and by the secretary of the Rio de Janeiro State Government, Cibilis Viana, in representation of Governor Leonel Brizola of the PDT [Democratic Workers' Party], following a meeting at Bandeirantes Palace (organized by Governor Franco Montoro) to kick off the campaign for direct elections.

The document emphasizes that a return to direct elections "means that new directions for the Brazilian economy will be possible, together with a reaffirmation of our sovereignty and the primacy of the domestic market." It also states that direct voting "means the opportunity for change to replace centralized decision-making with democratic consultation of the broad sectors of society."

It further states that "this is the way to ensure trust on the part of the citizenry toward those who are responsible for directing our destiny. It is the best alternative for the states and municipalities, which need to have their autonomy strengthened for the good of the people and the nation. This is the encouragement required both by wage earners and by the business community."

The document signed by the opposition governors views the direct election system as representing "hope for our youth" and as "the great patriotic option for the federal government, an option that can--because it transcends group interests and personal ambitions--provide the nation with the democratic instrument that can enable it to establish the directions of its own history."

Governor Wilson Martins of Mato Grosso do Sul did not attend but sent a representative. Governors Gerson Camata of Espirito Santo and Nabor Junior of Acre also did not come to Sao Paulo, but sent a telegram to Franco Montoro in support of the document.

The document was also signed by other representatives of the opposition parties; by former mayor Olavo Setubal; and by representatives of various organizations.

Ulysses Guimarães, chairman of the IMDB, declared yesterday at Bandeirantes Palace--as he signed the governors' document in favor of direct elections--that "this course is irreversible."

In Ulysses' opinion "society is moving toward direct elections, and nothing is going to prevent it from attaining its objective. Certain pockets of resistance within the FDS [Social Democratic Party]," he added, "should be overcome." He emphasized that "we are already approaching the two-thirds vote necessary to obtain approval of the amendment reinstituting direct elections." He said that the president of the republic himself "is encouraging the expression of the people's will by means of direct elections, as well as declaring himself personally to be in favor of them." The effect of all this, Ulysses says, is to put "the FDS in the position of being responsible for this decision, both in the Federal Chamber of Deputies and in the Senate."

Upon arriving at Bandeirantes Palace, Governor Tancredo Neves said that "President João Figueiredo has launched a process in favor of direct elections that is now unstoppable."

For his part Gilberto Mestrinho of Amazonas opined that no one in Brazil can stand opposed to direct elections. He believes there should be a consensus including the FDS, in order to ensure approval of the direct-election amendment and its implementation.

Governor Iris Resende of Goiás believes that the direct-election movement is too strong for the FDS, which will have to think twice before voting against the amendment re-establishing direct elections for president of the republic. "The FDS," he said, "will have to be in agreement with the people and with the president of the nation himself."

Governor Ayrton Siqueira of Pará emphasized that "we do not know any valid argument against direct elections." In his opinion, "these people who have called for maintenance of the indirect system are afraid to submit themselves to the judgment of the ballot box."

Vice Governor Ramez Tebet of Mato Grosso do Sul, who represented Wilson Martins, said that direct elections "are demanded by the entire nation, and only those who fear direct suffrage are attempting to maintain the system of election of the electoral college."

Speaking in the name of the governors who signed the document, Governor José Richa of Paraná emphasized that "direct elections will be the instrument for solving the national crisis by enlisting the people--who are in a quandary--in the struggle to achieve an honorable solution for the nation." Richa also commended the commitment of the opposition governors to the goal of direct elections, made long before the document signed yesterday. "However," he added, "we place great importance on this ceremony, which will now impart a stimulus to the movement for direct elections, thereby expressing the desire of virtually the entire Brazilian nation."

Following the signing of the document by the state governors, Franco Montoro invited the rest of those present to sign the document. The first to sign was Hoge Ferreira, the Sao Paulo LDP chairman, followed by Senator Fernando Henrique Cardoso, regional chairman of the PMDB, and Senator Severo Gomes.

The document was also signed by former Sao Paulo prefect Olavo Setubal, who Montoro said "represents broad sectors of the civilian society of Sao Paulo and of the nation," and subsequently by Vice Governor Orestes Quercia; Prefect Mario Covas; Deputy Nefi Tales, president of the Assembly; Federal Deputy Farabulini Junior of the PTB [Brazilian labor Party]; state deputy Sergio dos Santos of the PT [Workers Party]; the entire Secretariat of State; Audalio Dantas, for the National Federation of Journalists; and by Deputy Israel Dias Novaes and Senator Mauro Benevides, representing the Ceara delegation of the PMDB.

Former prefect Olavo Setubal declared at the conclusion of the meeting that direct elections for president of the republic will constitute the great solution for Brazil. "No one denies," he emphasized, "that because of its republican and democratic tradition, Brazil must turn to the direct election of the president of the republic."

10992

CSO: 3342/30

CFP FORECASTS 3 PERCENT RISE IN CENTRAL-SOUTH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Nov 83 p 36

/Text/ Brasilia Bureau--The 1983-84 crop of cotton, rice, beans, corn and soybeans in the Central-South region is expected to record a growth of close to 3 percent by comparison with the figures for the previous crop, according to the official estimate of the Production Financing Company (CFP), it was announced yesterday by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The official technical estimate even foresees a record soybean crop for 1984, with a production of between 15.4 million and 15.9 million tons compared to 14.57 million tons in 1983. There was an increase of between 3 and 7 percent in total area planted, and it is expected that production will increase by between 6 and 10 percent provided there are no climatic anomalies such as the floods in the South.

The most significant increase in production is expected to be in corn (of between 13 and 16 percent), with a crop estimated at from 21.2 million to 21.8 million tons compared to 18.8 million tons for the 1982-83 crop and also an increase of between 3 and 7 percent in total area planted.

Beans recorded a reduction of from 3 to 10 percent in total area planted, but are expected to record an increase in production of from 36 to 46 percent for the rainy-season crop, due to the fact that the weather has been quite favorable. The initial planting estimate was for a rainy season crop of 1.25 million tons. If there is no recurrence of excessively adverse climatic conditions such as occurred in 1983 (which caused a 50 percent decline in production) the first crop of beans should reach 1.8 million tons (a decrease of from 3 to 10 percent by comparison with the previous crop) and the rainy season crop 1.25 million tons.

The forecast for the rice crop (which the CFP calls "optimistic") is 7.1 million tons compared to 6.9 million tons for the previous crop, despite a reduction of from 4 to 9 percent in total area planted. A forecast for the entire nation, however, can be made with maximum accuracy only following the planting in Maranhao in January: the current official expectation, however, is for an increase in production of as much as 3 percent.

Cotton--a crop that is both labor intensive and capital intensive and also involves the interdiction of certain areas afflicted with the "rice grosbeak"--is expected to show a reduction of from 11 to 17 percent in total area planted, with as much as an 8 percent decline in production.

Technical experts of the Ministry of Agriculture anticipate that it will not be necessary to import any of these products in 1984 despite the fact that the bean, rice and cotton crops will be barely adequate and could be adversely affected by any unfavorable variation in climatic conditions.

According to the CFP, existing stocks of rice are sufficient to supply the domestic market until the next crop is marketed, while the 110,000 tons of corn in storage--added to the additional 100,000 tons to be purchased for importation--should (as of today) also suffice to meet requirements until the next domestic crop is harvested.

Although it is anticipated that there will be a reduction in total area planted in other states (mainly in the Center-West, where the dry-land variety is grown), Sao Paulo State will increase its rice plantings by from 5 to 10 percent. The largest decrease in area planted is expected to be recorded in Goias, with a reduction of between 12 and 17 percent. There should be little change in Sao Paulo's soybean production, but an increase of between 5 and 10 percent in the area planted to corn and a reduction of as much as 10 percent in the area planted to beans.

10992

CSO: 3342/30

FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR NIOBIUM-RELATED RESEARCH

Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Nov 83 p 7

/Text/ The president of FINEP (Funding Authority for Studies and Projects), an entity linked to SEPLAN /Secretariat of Planning/, Jose Valter Merlo, yesterday signed--at the administrative offices of the USP /University of Sao Paulo/--an agreement granting 157 million cruzeiros to the Sao Carlos Institute of Physics and Chemistry to develop technology for the utilization of niobium and niobium products.

In its pure state metallic niobium is used as a superconductor of energy (it transmits electricity over long distances and without loss), and when combined with certain other metals (nickel and iron) brings about the creation of alloys that are resistant to corrosion and low temperatures and are therefore indicated for use in the construction of oil and gas pipelines crossing the polar regions. In addition, niobium salts form crystals that are used as detectors of infrared radiation; in artificial satellites; and as sensors of military equipment.

The Sao Carlos Institute of Physics and Chemistry (of the University of Sao Paulo) was represented by Professor Milton de Souza, who explained the advantages of carrying out studies relating to the technology of niobium and niobium products. "Brazil," he said, "possesses 85 percent of the world's reserves of niobium, a fact which puts them in a privileged position as regards the sale of high-priced products that are in great demand on foreign markets. For this reason," he continued, "it is essential that we develop all the techniques for using this metal, always attempting to transform it into products that are more noble and of greater aggregate value."

Foreign Exchange

He commented that Brazilian exports of ferroniobium (used in steelmaking) generate more than \$100 million per year in foreign exchange: "an amount," he said, "that can be multiplied innumerable times if instead of exporting the metal or its alloys we sell niobium crystals."

Milton de Souza cited one of these crystals: lithium niobate, of which the United States alone imports 10 tons per year. He explained that this product is employed in the assembly of optical systems for remote sensing (artificial satellites designed to transmit to earth meteorological data and information concerning the earth's surface that relates, for example, to the devastation of forests; control of agricultural mapmaking; and even troop movements and military targets).

An Additional 400 Million

"Sao Carlos Institute," Milton de Souza said, "has already invested approximately 200 million cruzeiros in research on the formation of niobium crystals and silicon crystals" (the former are used as sensors of infrared radiation and the latter in the manufacture of semiconductors, which are the raw material for the manufacture of microelectronic circuits). "In addition to the 200 million cruzeiros already invested," he said, "and the reauthorization of 157 million cruzeiros supplied by FINEX, we are scheduled to receive an additional 400 million cruzeiros from the Bank of Brazil by next January." Souza announced that the process of maturation of the projects relating to silicon and niobium technology will extend to the end of 1988. This project will consume a grand total of \$2 million in funds (at current prices).

10992

ISO: 3342/30

EMFA DENIES JOINT U.S. PROJECT FOR MILITARY BASE ON TRINDADE

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Nov 83 p 8

[Text] The minister-chief of the Armed Forces General Staff [EMFA], Brig Gen Waldir Vasconcelos, said yesterday in Rio that he was unaware of any intention on the part of the Brazilian Government to prepare--in conjunction with the United States--a project for the creation of a base on the island of Trindade.

What does exist--according to the EMFA minister--is a project on the part of the Brazilian Navy and Air Force to construct a landing strip on the island as part of an infrastructure for naval and air use. At the present time the only way to approach the island is by ship, and Trindade does not even have a wharf.

This project--formalized in 1979 by Minister Maximiano da Fonseca--is not one of the Navy's top priorities, because of the shortage of financial resources. The admiral visited the island in 1979 in the company of his Air Force counterpart, Brig Gen Delio Jardim de Mattos.

In his own on-the-spot study of the project, the brigadier general gave assurances that the FAB [Brazilian Air Force] would lend support to the construction of the aeronaval infrastructure. Since 1980, however, with the gradual worsening of the economic crisis and the cuts in the military budget, the project no longer is receiving financial support.

According to Navy officials, the project for creation of an aeronaval infrastructure on Trindade has not been abandoned but is merely awaiting funding. Cost of the project was initially estimated at \$350 million.

The news story published by the French magazine AFRIQUE-ASIE to the effect that the U.S. Government is prepared to invest \$300 million for construction of a base on the island was regarded by Navy and Air Force officials as a "repetition of material already published recently by O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO."

In Brasilia, moreover, both the minister of the navy and the minister of aeronautics said they are unaware of any offer made by President Ronald Reagan to establish a strategic military base on Trindade.

RISING LEFTIST INFLUENCE IN CHURCH, BRIZOLA'S PROSPECTS VIEWED

Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 6 Nov 83 p 3

[Interview with Theotonio dos Santos, Latin American political activist, by Gordana Tintor: "There Is No Miracle In Brazil"]

[Text] Theotonio dos Santos is one of those Latin American intellectuals whose presence is felt on the continental level. A Brazilian by birth and a socio-political scientist by profession, dos Santos is familiar to the general Latin American public as the author of books and articles on Latin American life and as a participant in numerous conferences which deal with attempting to solve some of the joint political, economic, and cultural problems of the continent. It was at one of these conferences that I met him--at a round table discussion on militarism which was organized in response to rising international militarism in Latin America--in Mexico in 1980. He was a member of a rival commission for the evaluation of activities together with prominent Latin Americans like Julio Cortazaro, Garcia Marquez, Pablo Gonzalez Casanova, and the founder of the legendary progressive Uruguay newspaper MARCH, Carlos Quijano. In his statement, dos Santos supported "scientific analysis, and not emotional reaction" to this phenomenon of Latin America social and political life, emphasizing that "forms of violence, terror, and exploitation in our countries are not always necessarily connected with the military--there are regimes which are not military, and which demonstrate a high level of repression and encourage the violent processes of exploitation."

Dos Santos lived in exile for many years because of his opposition to the Brazilian military dictatorship, but he returned to the country 3 years ago when conditions were such as to guarantee his safety. He recently stayed in Yugoslavia as a participant in a roundtable discussion on socialism in Cavtat; he then traveled to France, where in the capacity of a delegate of his Democratic Labor Party, he attended a congress of French socialists.

[Question] We began the discussion with a question about his political activity and how it was disrupted during critical periods of recent Brazilian history.

[Answer] I began my political activity 50 years ago in a student movement of working youth. In 1961 we founded a workers' political revolutionary organization with a Marxist orientation in which I was a leader until 1966.

We tried to show that Marxism could be understood outside of a Stalinist or Trotskyite context, outside of international currents, that it could rely primarily on Brazilian life, on the demands of trade unionists and farmers for social changes.

Then came the putsch of 1964, and I had to go underground and leave my job as a university professor. The military court sentenced me to 15 years in prison as an "intellectual mentor of subversive influence in the rural regions." In May 1966, the situation was such that I had to seek asylum in the Chilean Embassy, and I then had to cross over into Chile.

Question In Latin America at that time, there existed a rather well-organized guerrilla movement in virtually all countries, as a result of the victory of the Cuban revolution. What sort of position did you have with regard to the theory of "focusing" which was endorsed by Che Guevara and Régis Debray?

Answer We had a critical position towards the focusing theory, and especially to the idea of provoking the focus. Debray supported the theory that the objective conditions for revolution are present, and that one only needs to gather the subjective forces together. We believed that armed struggle was a complex process, and that one must conduct it depending upon the conditions in each country.

The Trilateral Coup

Question What were the opportunities for continuing your political activities for Brazil while in exile in Chile?

Answer A movement for solidarity with Brazilians existed after the military dictatorship was installed, and I joined up with the Chilean struggle immediately--I even became a member of the Socialist Party of Chile. I was one of the editors of the weekly CHILE HOY, which was the major analytical organ of the Chilean process. At the Center For Socio-economic Studies at the University of Chile we were concerned with the theory of dependence, attempting to explain it from a Marxist point of view. When the Allende government fell, I was among those being sought together with Chilean political leaders, and I had to leave for Mexico.

Question How do you explain the defeat of the progressive movements which appeared 50 and 60 years ago in Latin America, a few of which were connected with populism which is often underlined from an ideological point of view?

Answer Populism is a political style quite unique to Latin America. It began from nationalist-democratic and anti-imperialistic positions, and primarily relied on the middle class and the oligarchy. In Latin America it also has a certain connection with historical populism of the Russian or American variety. The multiclass characteristic has its roots in the masses, but the Latin American version is even more irrational. The characteristic central to it is resistance to capitalism in the postcapitalistic process, but

this resistance is not theoretically grounded. Movements which appeared and survived 50 and 60 years ago were conditioned by numerous external and internal factors, and the majority of them failed to have some sort of alliance with imperialism. From the point of view of the left, the only movement which accomplished the goal which it set for itself was the Cuban 26 July Movement with the victory of the Cuban revolution.

Question Can you tell us something about the coup d'etat in Brazil in 1964--it is generally known that it was organized from the outside?

Answer The coup of 1964, which destroyed the last civilian government of President Goulart, was organized by a group of multinational companies which were joined through the Institute For Sociological and Economic Research. Documents have recently been published from this period which can be read as treatises on organizing a coup d'etat. A group of businessmen from these companies were the basis for the future Trilateral Commission of the wealthy American Rockefeller, in which people like Carter, Bush, Mondale, and Kissinger are members. This group meets once a year to work out strategies for protecting their interests throughout the world. One faction of military leaders oriented to the Right felt that a coup was coming, and organized a multinational group and prevented that action with their own coup, and the government which was then set up was the result of that coup. However, all those forces which were defeated by that coup, as well as those factions of the Right which were excluded in the new distribution of authority, gradually gathered together. Broad fronts including great mass movements came into being, and this culminated in the taking over of factories by workers, and other similar manifestations of dissatisfaction, in 1968. In 1968, a coup within a coup took place in order to restrain this ever-growing popular movement, a movement to which the government responded by repression, general censorship, and terror.

It was just at that time, however, that the period was designated as the beginning of the "Brazilian economic miracle."

...and the "Economic Miracle"

The Brazilian economic miracle was the result of the combination of economic growth, massive investment of international capital, and government investment. Inside the power apparatus there is a tendency to support government surprises because of personal interests, mostly from the Right of the military hierarchy. Thus, the "miracle" is the result of the policy of these forces which disguised its negative aspects by high growth rates. The period of economic progress lasted from 1968 to 1973, and has as its chief consequence ever greater social inequality, the marginal existence of one stratum of society, increasing poverty, illiteracy, and the dissatisfaction of a broader number of the population.

Question Now one hears that there is a crisis of the "economic miracle," and that this crisis will turn the governing structure into "genuine democracy."

Answer The "opening up" began sometime in 1973, when interpersonal struggles began to take place within the military regime. One faction of the military insisted on the thesis that Brazil was a great power, which the United States never accepted. The "opening up" was a certain type of strategy whose goal was to establish a liberal order, conservative in principle, restrictive in regard to the left. A liberal opposition existed, permitted by the military regime. The crisis of the economic miracle was part of the miracle itself. The shortening of this economic plan was that no one chose to see the weaknesses of Brazilian capitalism, nor the danger inherent within the economic miracle. The profound antipopular content of this type of economic development, which was dictated by the multinational companies, was not understood. Thus the process of opening up took more and more space which those who were most threatened used to manifest their demands to a greater extent, not only for liberalization in political life, but for basic changes in society.

Question What were the results of this pressure exerted by the masses?

Answer One of the first victories was the renewed consent to the right to strike. In 1979, a general amnesty was proclaimed, and the success of this strategy also resulted in last year's direct elections for governors of states, in which some of the candidates of the opposition, like Brizola, were victorious. The struggle for direct elections of the president and for abolition of the national security law, with which the government has gained extraordinary power, still lies ahead.

Question You mentioned Brizola, who, in a political career spanning many years, has succeeded in creating an image of a fighter for workers' rights. He is now the governor of one of the strongest states in Brazil--Rio de Janeiro. What are his prospects?

Answer Some polls indicate that Brizola would be chosen Brazil's president if general elections were to be announced. His Democratic Labor Party continues the tradition of the traditional labor party, going back to the one founded by Vargas. The reorganization of this party was begun in 1978, and it was constituted in 1979 at a congress in Lisbon. Brizola's program, which supports democratic socialism and structural reforms in the Brazilian economy, which would open the way to socialism, is very popular with the people. This, together with his personal popularity, increases his chances for achieving election victories.

Question How do you explain the recent, temporary, absence of Figueiredo from the presidential post, which is being explained by poor health?

Answer The latter concerns a scenario in which the vice-president, Aureliano Chaves, who is connected with the Rockefeller group, would take power. Last in 1975, an article was published in Mexico about his departure for the United States, on which occasion this group came out for him as a candidate in the presidential elections of 1984.

Historic Goal

Question How is the Catholic Church in Brazil holding out with all these upheavals? It is generally known that the archbishop of São Paulo, Dom Evaristo Arns, is one of those progressive priests, popularly called the "Third World priests."

Answer The Catholic Church used to be very conservative, and even participated in the putsch of 1964. But during the period of repression, a leftist tendency began to develop within the Church which was organized into Catholic Action, and which had great popular support. In one faction of the Church, which also experienced repression and persecutions, identification with the resistance movement became even stronger, and these sectors also came out for both armed struggle and for socialism. The Church was transformed into one of the centers of the struggle against dictatorship. And Dom Paulo Evaristo is very much respected both in Brazil and outside of Brazil, and he does not hide the fact that he has great sympathy for socialism. It is well known that he was one of the candidates for pope.

Question You were concerned with the theory of dependence in several of your works ("Socialism or Fascism--The New Character of Dependence and the Latin American Dilemma," "Imperialism and Dependence," etc.) Could you tell us something about this?

Answer The theory of dependence emerges out of 60 years as an attempt to explain the reasons for lack of development, not only because of an objective lag, but as a function of economic relations with world capital. The internal development of dependent economies was aimed at the one-crop economy and the export of raw materials which maintained semiservile relationships, not as an historic expression, but in order to be able to enter the world market. This theory tries to explain how the struggle for modern development, for a strong national economy, for greater political democracy, social equality, which has been realized in the bourgeois democracies, has its limitations. In order to realize this in our dependent countries, socialism must become the necessary instrument and the historic goal. The difference between the West and the socialism of underdeveloped countries lies in the fact--and Europeans often don't see this--that western capitalism is imperialistic and has sufficient resources for distribution to different social levels. They also get some profits from this. But under the conditions in our countries, the high level of exploitation leaves the amount left over to a minimum, and the bulk of the masses lead ever more marginal existences. Under the conditions in our countries, capitalism is necessarily monopolistic, and no proletarian party has popular support.

Question In this context, what role does militarism have as a form of surviving?

Answer Militarism has the role of guaranteeing the survival of dependence on capital, namely in the economy, the profits of the multinational companies, and a high degree of exploitation on the part of the state.

Militarism does not serve feudal forces but modern capitalism, which is an expression of fascism, which puts in place a regime of terror by large capital. Of course, this system is very efficient with its well-developed methods of repression and with the modern technology of terror.

The Phobia of European Intellectuals

Question How, then, do you explain the crisis of the military regimes on the continent during the last few years, and in this context, the transition from a military rule to a civilian rule in Argentina?

Answer It is partly a matter of the contradiction between national and multinational capital. The multinationals seek to protect their interests from military regimes which are ideologically identified with the North American Right. But the formulas of the most rightwing regimes are quickly exhausted and huge political problems continue. Then the formula for a "democratic opening" is sought, which is, however, only an attempt to keep authoritarianism alive, as in the case of Brazil. At this time, it seems that the process of democracy on the continent will open up, which will lead inevitably to the creation of popular and anti-imperialist regimes, which will then, again cause the imperialists in our countries to reach for new rightist formulas.

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WEEKLY ISSUE: LEARNING IN COMMUNIST PARTY CHAIR

Santiago 1964 (Feb 10 - Spanish & Dec 8) p. 5

[Passages enclosed in parentheses printed in boldface]

[Text] No one can deny the tremendous influence the Communist Party has in the contemporary world. Its ideas and model operandi, disruptive instigations, have penetrated all domestic institutions.

In Chile's case, this influence has been particularly clear and consistent. It is clear, in fact, that the Communist Party gained access to the national government; and so dramatic that this access culminated in the greatest crisis in the history of Chilean democracy and independence.

This happened even though the Communist Party has never been and never will be a force capable of providing an alternative by itself, in Chilean circumstances.

Its influence and operations stem from the fact that these Communists organize this better than anyone, and as a result, they take action through infiltration and subversion of the main pillars of any democracy.

Thus, they succeed in winning over democratic leaders, who harbor the influence of ambition and the reinforcement of personal ambition for power, because to them, it is not even necessary to sympathize with the actions of the Communist Party.

Then the Communists begin to share the banners of struggle with some democratic sections. Several demands have always been attractive to them: the joint mobilization of the masses. At this stage, it is only to open on some the social-democratic political movement, which always conclude with massive demonstrations of solidarity in which the keywords always advocate the radicalization of society. At this point the risk of thinking the democratic Party is in this movement is enormous. These leaders begin to see and think in the lines of the Party's program, which the Communists have been able to socialize them.

To weaken the Party and the Left, they accept as their own what they are completely alien to their principles and positions. But when the Party, when this happens, the Communist Party takes an even more extreme position.

once again, so as not to lose power or "the leadership of the people," they begin to defend ideas that come ever closer to those new Communist positions. /This is how the principles that form the basis of any free, democratic system are destroyed./

The actual consequence of all this is the division of democratic forces between the "reactionaries" and the "progressives." This division, in turn, enables the Communists to achieve their primary objective, which is not having to fight against a united front defending principles which, if kept intact, make it absolutely impossible to destroy democracy, and therefore make the triumph of communism impossible. This is what happened to the Chilean democracy, culminating with the tragic division of democratic forces in 1970. In fact, when it is said that the Christian Democrats turned the government over to Allende, it is not that there was any pact with him or any common political platform. No, what happened was that they had very similar presidential platforms, as a result of what we have explained, and this meant that the forces of democracy /necessarily had to/ split up.

Today it is essential that this Communist strategy be kept clearly in mind. Each and every one of the democratic leaders must know how to lead the democrats and must understand that all their postulates are legitimate and valuable, as long as these leaders do not fall for the game of compromising their principles. Such principles are the key to obtaining political objectives that may seem laudable, but without the postulates of democracy, these goals can never be realized. This is not meant to impugn the democratic ideals of certain people, but on the contrary, to warn them of a /fact./

We are not pointing this out to be whimsical; since the so-called political liberalization, there have been very specific actions that confirm our fears. Today the objective of the democratic opposition is to recover full democracy for the country. For this purpose they have said that they agree to cooperate with /all/ those who have the same ambition, including the Communist Party, whose doctrine precludes that goal. Moreover, at the same time another kind of united action has begun to emerge, as in the case of the attack on the new mining legislation or the organization and defense of land "takeovers" to "do justice" to the movement's followers. But along the way, they are once more destroying and seriously challenging the principle of private property. It is also alleged that to recover democracy, the military regime must come to an immediate halt. The result is that democratic sectors have become increasingly distant from the Armed Forces, which will weaken Chilean institutions and the possibility of democratizing them, because they will, as they have throughout our history, guarantee and play a very important role in the political and social processes of Chile.

For all the above reasons, if we want to build a democracy we must do so with those who believe in it; not those who use some of its institutions for the sole purpose of destroying it once and for all, but rather those who believe in each and every one of the principles that make democracy possible and are willing to submit to the obligations it entails. /This is true for members of the opposition, the government and its partisans. Democracy must be accepted with a realistic and sincere attitude./

GABRIEL VALDES ON CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT LEADERSHIP, PLANS

Santiago QUE PASA in Spanish 15 Dec 83 pp 16-19

[Interview with Chilean Christian Democrat President Gabriel Valdes by Gloria Stanley; date and place not specified]

[Text] We had been conversing for a half hour, and the tape recorder was still not on. Our interviewee was sticking to his guns. "I just can't give your magazine an interview. It's treated me so badly! Interviews today aren't interviews any more. They're duels. The only thing that you want to ask me about is communism....Look, I've already decided to do some reading...for my mental health, you know?" I then asked him why he told me to come to his office today when I requested the interview yesterday. "Because I wanted to give you the explanations personally," he replied. "So you won't give a segment of the populace a chance to familiarize itself with Christian Democrat thought?" I asked him as he got up and left to talk briefly with someone waiting for him. When he returned, he sat down and said to me: "So, you wanted an interview. But I have another commitment in an hour. Do you think that's enough time?"

Thus began QUE PASA's interview of Gabriel Valdes, the 64-year old attorney who is president of Chile's Christian Democrats. He is married to Silvia Soubllette and has three children (Juan Gabriel, an attorney; Max, an orchestra conductor, and Maria Gracia) and nine grandchildren.

Foreign minister during Eduardo Frei's 6-year term, Gabriel Valdes was also the UN Development Program's director for Latin America and undersecretary general of the United Nations from 1971 to 1981. He took over as head of Chilean Christian Democracy in 1982.

[Question] Many politicians tend to interpret developments in Chile as related to what is going on beyond our borders. Do you think that the recent election in Argentina will have an impact on Chile?

[Answer] I think that that is inevitable. What happened in Argentina happens in all dictatorial regimes. They eventually wear out and give way to a major election and civilian rule. This is what happened in Spain, Portugal, Germany, Italy and Greece. Argentina was lucky enough that this process took place in an atmosphere of great peace and order, through a great man and a great party.

[Question] Some think that the transition was made possible by the maturity of Argentine politicians, who sought a fitting solution, a maturity that some segments of the populace say they do not see in Chilean politicians.

[Answer] I couldn't compare the maturity of people there and people here. What I do know is that at a given moment the Argentine people mobilized so broadly and so decisively that the military officers themselves set a deadline for their stepping down and called elections without conditions.

[Question] But this sort of grassroots mobilization has not yet been seen in Chile. When the Democratic Alliance called for a rally in O'Higgins Park, fewer than 200,000 people showed up.

[Answer] This is because of the different makeup of the two countries and the nature of the regime. Moreover, the factions of the political Right in Argentina promptly took a democratic stand. No civilian sector there would have stuck by the Armed Forces.

[Question] And how do you see rightwing forces in Chile?

[Answer] I see them as totally committed to this regime. Over these 10 years they have forgotten the principles that the Right has always defended, such as political freedom, human rights, freedom of information and the existence of a Congress.

[Question] Leaders of the National Party, such as Carlos Raymond, contend, however, that their group dissolved itself in September 1973 and was never part of the government, that it maintained its independence vis-a-vis the current regime's political actions and that that independence entitles it to criticize.

[Answer] I have great respect for Carlos Raymond and I'm happy about this position, which I feel clarifies the status of many rightwing sectors. I cannot fail to point out, however, that at one point the president of the National Party, with the consent of the party's entire governing board, resolved to dissolve it because, in their words, the National Party's principles, doctrine

and thought were represented by the Government Junta. A party that abdicates its functions and claims that it is represented by the Armed Forces seems to me to have at least lost its political legitimacy. I am glad to hear that today, after this long and painful experience, the National Party feels that we have to return to a political party system.

[Question] The same National Party leader has told QUE PASA that there has to be a dialogue between the National Union and the Alliance. Would you rule this out?

[Answer] No, not at all. I have always said, and it is also the philosophy of my party and of the Alliance, that the construction of democracy requires a dialogue among all political forces and the country's consensus. We are prepared to talk with all who really believe that the solution for Chile is a democratic system.

[Question] Going beyond a dialogue, do you think that a pact with rightwing forces is possible?

[Answer] Of course. We have talked about two types of pacts. One is a political accord to reestablish democracy. Such an accord must encompass all democratic sectors, both Left and Right; the broader, the better. We have also talked about a "social pact" between labor and management because we have to get this country's economy moving again. In the political arena Chile has to leave aside for a time individual ideologies (though this does not mean renouncing them, because they are the parties' *raison d'etre*) and get to work on rebuilding our institutions. This must be done through a vote of the people, not imposed by top political echelons.

[Question] I'm asking you about the pact with the Right because you have described the Christian Democrats as a Center-Left force. Nevertheless, your group's major triumphs in the past stemmed from a coalition between it and the Right.

[Answer] A party never takes a political stand because of the outside support that it might receive, but rather in keeping with its own vision of the country. We place ourselves on the Center-Left in accordance with a longstanding view of Christian Democracy in the world, as it was defined by the greatest Christian Democratic politician, De Gasperi, the creator of contemporary Italy and the creator of the party that has lasted the longest in government in Europe. A Center-Left stand is a national and, at the same time, grassroots stand. When Christian Democracy loses its grassroots contingent and devotion to the people, when it ceases to be the party of the working class, the poor and labor leaders, it ceases to be Christian Democracy. We are not going to change this stand because the Right does or does not support us.

[Question] Don't you think that Christian Democracy suffers from something of a complex by wanting to look like a Center-Left force when its logical place would be the Center pure and simple?

[Answer] I would categorically describe Christian Democracy as Center-Left. We seek to change the current situation, to reform it, not to maintain it. When you're in the Center, you're very close to the Right, and the Right has a legitimate function in countries: to defend a certain order, to defend certain rights. We feel that there is little to defend in Chile today. We have to rebuild, we have to do new things and we have to do them with the people. What this means to us is being very close to leftwing sectors, with the dividing line being our stand against violence.

[Question] Let's see what your Center-Left position consists of. If the Christian Democrats were to take power again, would you embark on another agrarian reform?

[Answer] Not the way it was done before, definitely not that way. The agrarian reform that I would undertake would include strong incentives for productivity, technology and the distribution of land tenure, so that there would be more individual owners, more businessmen farmers with real support from the government.

[Question] And what would you do with some of the reforms undertaken by the current government, the Labor Plan, for example?

[Answer] I would reform it completely. A country in which no more than nine percent of the workers are unionized is a disaster. This plan has been drafted by novice ideologues who wanted to bring in outside ideas that are at odds with Chilean reality. The Social Security Plan is another disaster that I would completely change. And the same goes for the educational system.

[Question] So you would eliminate all of the "modernizations" with one stroke of the pen?

[Answer] I would.

[Question] I asked you about the changes that Christian Democracy would make "if it came to power." Do you see your party governing alone or with company?

[Answer] We feel that it is indispensable to come to power as part of a coalition and to govern as such.

[Question] The Socialists have categorically asserted, however, that they do not want an alliance with a view towards a future government. That leaves you only the republican Right, Social Democrats and radicals.

[Question] Yes, that's the way things stand today. But we strongly intend to convince the Socialists in the Alliance that the new democracy demands their participation as well in whatever government is formed, not just support for a transition government.

[Question] One might think that the self-exclusion of socialist sectors would make things easier for the Christian Democrats. It even makes possible an understanding with rightwing sectors.

[Answer] No, it does not make them easier, because we do not want major political sectors, which define themselves as democratic, to remain outside the enormous effort that we will have to make in Chile in the future. If we realize that we will have to build a million homes and provide jobs for a million people, then we will see that we will have to have great social and political discipline to carry out this task in liberty. Therefore, the government must be as representative as possible.

[Question] And how would you get rightwing and socialist sectors to agree on the concept of private property, for example?

[Answer] If you read carefully the document that we drew up for the Alliance and that was discussed for many months, you will see that the Socialists in the alliance acknowledge the need for a system of private property in Chile. This is a compromise that they have made. Likewise, the people on the Right acknowledge today that the government must be more involved in the economy and regain ownership over some enterprises that have been privatized. The grave situation in Chile forces those who hold extreme ideological positions to give ground and hold back on those positions so that we can undertake a joint task for 6, 8 or 10 years.

[Question] Do you include the members of the UDI within this joint task?

[Answer] No, decidedly not. For 10 years the labor leaders have persistently voiced antidemocratic views associated with fascism and ideological intolerance and have shown contempt for freedom, the dignity of the individual and unfettered democratic workings. I would completely rule them out of a democratic understanding.

[Question] Socialist Ricardo Lagos said in an interview published last Sunday that all of the parties in the Alliance agree that the Communist Party ought to regain the place that it has always had. What in your opinion is the place that the Communist Party ought to regain?

[Answer] I am in agreement with his statement. The "place that it has always had" was its right to be a political party, to elect congressmen, to take part in Chilean politics, to hold opinions and to express them publicly in the papers and on TV. This is

how it is in Argentina, in France and, for the most part, in democratic countries. No one ought to be excluded because of his ideas, not even the nationalists, even though deep down they are not democratic either. But as long as they do not perform antidemocratic acts and engage in violence and as long as they abide by the constitution, they have a right to take part. What are punished are antidemocratic acts, which could be committed by communists or other groups. The Communist Party was not a problem in Chilean politics. The Communist Party was even part of many governments, along with the liberals and the Right in the days of Gonzalez Videla, with Pedro Aguirre Cerda. Just as the military has been in governments with communists, under Salvador Allende, for example. I think that all ideas must be recognized, as long as they abide by the rule of the constitution and egalitarian norms. I think that the only way to diminish the power of the Communist Party is to solve a country's social problems.

[Question] And what would you do about the natural misgivings that developed about the Communist Party during the years of the Popular Unity government?

[Answer] They are the result of propaganda. After 10 years of hearing the national network attribute all of this country's woes to communism, people wind up with a distorted view. We have to remember, however, that the Communist Party never got more than 12 or 13 percent of the popular vote. Therefore, I say, a people's government that tries hard to resolve all problems, with sizable foreign aid, aid that we are already seeing (the German minister offered some today for the future democracy). I am not at all afraid. I am not a communist. I am a democratic libertarian, but I am not afraid of communism, just as the French, the Italians and the Spanish aren't. Fear is the worst adviser in politics. If you provide jobs and housing and enable young people to study in college, the communist problem is gone. I think that communism is not the problem in Chile today. It is the 10-year old dictatorship, the lack of industry and agriculture, international isolation.

[Question] But is it also the result of propaganda that 29.3 percent of the respondents in a poll published by the magazine HOY favor an opposition government that does not include the Communist Party, while 21.6 percent favor an opposition government without exclusions?

[Answer] Christian Democracy supports a transition government made up of well-known figures that can promptly convene a Constitutional Assembly and tackle the country's economic and social problems, so that the people are the ones who choose. We Christian Democrats, with the parties in the Alliance, will be in a position to assume governmental tasks if we have the necessary support. But we will not make pacts with the Communist Party. We do believe that they have a perfect right to take part in Chilean and congressional politics, as they always have, without any danger. To outlaw them would complicate matters and create the opportunity for subversion.

[Question] You said that you would not make governmental pacts with the Communist Party. Yet Mr Ricardo Lagos has asserted that his group would remain in the Alliance as a way to achieve democracy but once democracy is attained, it would seek the identity that it has always had with the Communist Party. How does this statement by the Socialist leader comport with your desire that the Socialists be part of a future government?

[Answer] I do not agree with that position. The Alliance is a coalition of parties that does not include the Communist Party.

[Question] Does this mean, then, that if the Socialist Party maintains this position it will be out of the Alliance?

[Answer] That is our position. They will have to choose.

[Question] Ricardo Lagos has also said that the Alliance should appeal publicly to the communists to take part in the town councils that the Alliance is sponsoring.

[Answer] No, our position is that local residents should be invited to the town councils, be they government supporters, neutral, Christian Democrats or communists. They will deal with community problems as local residents. Ricardo Lagos himself has said that we have to begin distinguishing between civil society and political society.

[Question] What is the aim of the town councils?

[Answer] Modern democracy is based on responsibility and involvement. There has been a great deal of talk in Chile about grassroots involvement. We want to make this involvement a reality at the community, the neighborhood level. We want local residents to get together, without ideological aims, to analyze what their problems are and how to solve them.

[Question] Is the idea that the town councils are the first step towards a mass opposition mobilization that would lead to a nationwide strike?

[Answer] No, that is not what the call for the town councils is about?

[Question] But are you ruling out work stoppages as a future Alliance action?

[Answer] No, I am not ruling them out as part of a process. If the government continues to remain totally aloof from our social and economic problems, which have been aggravated by the largest layoff in Chile's history (when payments under the PEM [Minimum Employment Program] were stopped for 70,000 persons), it could lead to a very critical situation that might trigger radical change.

There are two Chiles: one that is protected by the government, that is in a crisis but that stays alive, and another Chile that believes in nothing and is willing to do anything. If something is not done here, we are going to have a collision between these two Chiles, and that would be a disaster.

[Question] The government is reportedly looking into the possibility of a plebiscite for an early Congress that could be appointed? What do you think of that idea?

[Answer] We reject all of these things and we will not take part in them. If these ideas had been put forth in 1974 or 1975, if the Francisco Bulnes declaration had been made earlier, it would have changed Chilean history. But it's 1983 now, and this government has had it. It's too late, I say. We are not going to be part of a Congress or a government that is falling, that we see as having no national or international future.

[Question] The Buenos Aires paper CLARIN caused a big to-do in our country by publishing reports that you asked the new Argentine Government to postpone a solution to the border dispute.

[Answer] Those reports are completely untrue, and I cite the statements that Minister Dante Caputo made at President Alfonsin's request. The remarks that are attributed to me are absurd. I have always strongly believed that Chile and Argentina have to promptly settle their border problems. I would have liked for Argentina to accept the arbitration ruling, because Chile won fair and square.

[Question] But you said something a while ago to the effect that the Chilean Government had not handled the process well.

[Answer] I wasn't referring to the mediation process. I said that mistakes had been made during the negotiation of the border dispute. I have chosen not to voice any opinions on the mediation process while complete information is not forthcoming from the government on what took place during the presidential talks in Mendoza and Puerto Montt, during which I am convinced mistakes were made.

[Question] Your purported statements published in CLARIN came on top of the DINACOS [Mass Media Directorate] charges that several Christian Democrat leaders had asked European governments to apply pressure to the Chilean Government. In this regard, Mr Jorge Lavandero reportedly said that "those who struggle for democracy and seek international solidarity do not deserve to be treated like traitors." How do you feel about this?

[Answer] I agree with Jorge Lavandero. Solidarity among democracies has been around for a very long time. It was this sort of solidarity that gave us our independence, that gave Europe democracy and that eliminated Naziism and Fascism.

[Question] It's just that some countries understand solidarity to mean economic strangulation. What do you understand it to mean?

[Answer] I have never proposed an economic boycott, because the people are the ones who are hurt and because I know from international experience that such boycotts do not work. Furthermore, no chief of state or government leader has ever talked to me about boycotting Chile.

[Question] Do you feel that you are the authentic leader of the Christian Democrats?

[Answer] Yes, I feel that I am the authentic leader of the Christian Democrats.

[Question] And if the Christian Democrats were to nominate a candidate to forge the country's destiny tomorrow, do you think that you would be the standard-bearer?

[Answer] I regard myself as a Chilean, as a Christian Democrat who is doing what he can to bring back democracy to Chile soon. I think that there are thousands of people with the talent to assume responsibilities. I have never run away from responsibilities. I feel that I am here to serve my country. Whether I am useful or not for a given purpose will depend on circumstances.

[Question] In 1973 there were three clear-cut factions within Christian Democracy, some of whose political stands were quite dissimilar. How do things stand today with the government backers, the "guatones" and the "chascones"?

[Answer] Those differences of opinion existed; I'm not going to deny it. But they do not today. During the time that I have been president of the Christian Democrats all decisions by the governing board have been made by consensus.

[Question] And when is the governing board up for reelection again?

[Answer] In April or May.

[Question] And what do you think will happen? Will the current board be reelected by consensus?

[Answer] I don't know. It's still a long way off. We have to get through the summer. In the meantime, we have to analyze and comment on a great many issues. In any case, I think that we will remain united.

PRESS ALLOWED TO OBSERVE FARC TRAINING CAMP

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Nov 83 pp 1A, 2B, 3B

[Article by German Santamaria: "Journey to the Heart of the FARC"]

[Text] Editorial Note: Prompted by reports that the Peace Commission and top commanders of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] were planning to hold a meeting, a small group of journalists traveled to the Caqueta region to cover this event which could be a second step toward peace after the Madrid talks. In the end the meeting did not take place but, for the first time in 20 years, this subversive organization allowed journalists to enter one of their base camps. By way of information, the Sunday edition publishes the following reportage with the observations made by our special correspondent.

The correspondents dispatched by EL TIEMPO were surprised by what they found in that FARC camp: a guerrilla village with two power generating units, a television, a hospital, a saddler's shop, a school, a theatrical group and a modern combat training track.

For the first time since they were formed, 20 years ago, the forces known as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the FARC, allowed the press to visit one of their camps. And this one is so large that a cow is butchered every third day to feed its entire population which is more numerous and enjoys better living conditions than the inhabitants of districts and municipalities in the Caqueta along the banks of the rivers.

Under the tall trees of the rain forest, there is an "urban area" the size of six blocks with narrow lanes and passages, public baths and toilets, a parade ground, a communications' room and two kitchens. The buildings are sheds, canvas tents, large log cabins and thatched huts.

These are the headquarters of the 15th FARC Front. It is the place where representatives of two other fronts operating in the Caqueta met for a week with a small group of journalists who came expecting that talks would take place between the top commanders of the FARC and the Peace Commission as a follow-up of the Madrid meeting between President Betancourt and the two top leaders of

the M-19. In the end the meeting did not take place but the members of the media were able to observe part of the infrastructure of the FARC and to find out what their real position is regarding the current peace situation in Colombia.

In addition to the 300 armed guerrillas in uniform, also present were Jorge Suarez, commander of the 14th Front; Fabio Rojas ("El Tio"), commander of the 15th Front and "Alonso," commander of the Second Front. There were also three representatives of the FARC top command--Ernesto, Juan Ramon and Ivan. There is every indication that the real purpose behind this meeting was to show the country that the FARC are not in disarray and on the run and to reaffirm the position of the FARC on the peace talks.

Two New Fronts

Commander Ernesto reported that news had just reached them concerning the formation of two additional fronts of the FARC raising to about 5,000 the number of their fighters in the country.

He made the announcement there in the camp at 5:30 a.m. The 300 guerrillas, including 38 women and 7 children, were up at 4:50 a.m. They promptly took up combat positions around the camp and remained entrenched until 5:50 a.m., for that is the time when the army usually launches its attacks against these camps.

By 7:00 a.m. they had all finished their breakfast. They stood in long lines outside the two kitchens and everybody was given a small bowl with rice, two cooked potatoes and meat. The sun's rays came through the treetops lighting the entire camp which occupies two top leveled embankments, each the size of three blocks, separated by a river carrying green but clean waters. All shrubs and small vegetation have been cleared leaving an area with well-trampled and bare earth. In that clearing, protected by huge cedar and mirtle trees, there are narrow lanes and passages marked by transverse timbers. Large sheds and thatched huts house the kitchen facilities, a school, a hospital, a cultural center, a saddler's shop and the food stores.

Adequate facilities for bathing and to wash the laundry are located by the river. Further down are the toilets which are nothing but a tree trunk spanning the river to squat down and a second tree to hold on. At the end of the main embankment there is a thatched hut with the television set and Betamax video. Many films, including "Hundred Rifles" and "Midnight Express" are watched by the guerrillas during the Sunday matinee sessions. Diagonally across from the television hut is the school where students learn to read and write, receive primary and secondary education and where a theatrical group perform in the middle of the jungle, and in a typical "Brechtian setting," a play by a well-known Colombian playwright.

At the end of each embankment are two modern power generating units which supply electricity to light the camp and for the television. The training track, cuts a path around the perimeter of the camp passing near the power generating units. It is in fact a training course with obstacle jumps, monkey bars, ropes suspended across the river, a target practice range. In other words, it is a small training center like the one in Tolemaida, but right in the middle of the Caqueta jungle.

Commander Jorge told us that we were free to describe this camp because the Colombian Army has already seen others like this one. He told us that on one occasion army troops occupied for a period of 2 months the camp of the top commander of the FARC, Manuel Marulanda Velez, 'Tiro Fijo,' and that after studying and taking pictures of the installations they departed leaving everything as they found it. "They only ate a cockerel," he said.

After the Truce

Commanders Jorge and "El Tio" said that right now the FARC are practically inactive waiting for the outcome of the peace talks. They said that amnesty was no longer an issue and that what was needed now was direct talks between the FARC and the government to consolidate peace. They said that peace will only be achieved when an agreement is reached which will guarantee at least the three following points: first, an effective ceasefire; second, expansion of the Amnesty Law to cover events which took place after 28 November of last year; third, starting what they call "the democratic broadening process" consisting in a number of social, economic and political reforms in the country. They claim that when this is done they will lay down their weapons and become a self-defense peasant movement. According to them, they will only accept peace under these minimum conditions "because we did not fight for 20 years to end up with just a pardon and instead of the immediate establishment of a socialist society, as we advocate, for the time being we agree to see several small reforms applied throughout the country."

By now it is 8:00 a.m. and the daily general assembly is held in the parade grounds. Around 300 guerrillas divided in squads stand at attention, pay homage to the Colombian flag and carry out drill exercises in close formation. Most of them carry G-3, FAL, R-15 and AR-18 rifles, that is to say the most modern light weapons. They also have mortars and grenade-launchers and claim to have portable communications equipment in another camp.

After standing on line for their lunch of rice, peas, potatoes, meat and corn tortillas, the guerrillas proceed to engage in field exercises. They run through the track in a hard-pressed throng. The 7 children and 38 women also run along. Most of the men and women are between 16 and 25 years of age. They are peasants--no university student was detected--and 40-year old Ernesto is called the "grandfather." For more than 2 hours they run through the track and in the jungle. They jump obstacles, cross rivers, swing on ropes and cross the catwalks suspended over the river.

At about 4:00 p.m., the exercises come to an end and it is time for the communal bathing. Men in shorts and women in bras and panties wash together in the green waters of the river. There is a big crowd of half-naked people in the water.

Marriage and Waiting Time

Around 5:00 p.m. Maria Dol and Emilio, both carrying their FAL rifles, go up to Commander Jorge and tell him that they want to tie the knot. He asks them if they are in love after which they are proclaimed married in the eyes of the FARC's top command. He reminds them that infidelity is not tolerated in

"revolutionary marriages" and that should they want to separate neither of them can remarry within the organization. The camp has more than 20 married couples and once a month the hospital doctor gives them contraceptive pills. At the hospital, housed in a long shed, the newly married couple attends a family planning course while a guerrilla with a lung ailment receives dextrose and a dentist works with a pedal-driven drill on the mouth of a guerrilla requiring crowns on three molars.

Further drills in close formation, drawing reports on the tasks of the day, enforcing punitive measures and general cleaning of the camp are the final activities performed before the meal at 6:00 p.m. After a meal of beans, meat, corn tortillas and a drink of water with brown sugar, it is time for the "cultural period." Some watch a play in the school. Others join an improvised dance in the parade grounds. Others watch Betamax video or take a walk through the "village" lit up by lamps.

Many of them also attend a small reception given by the three front commanders present in the camp. After a press conference, a long table is set with a meal of barbecued beef, potatoes, yuccas and champagne served in small bowls. There is something surrealistic, like out of a film produced by Buñuel or Fellini, about this banquet, about the guerrillas watching Betamax video and about the champagne being served in bowls right in the middle of the Caqueta jungle.

War and Peace

At 9:00 p.m. a deep silence falls over the camp. The only sound that can be heard is the splash of the patrols or scouts walking through the mud as they go into the jungle. The only people still awake, apart from the men standing guard all around the camp, are the commanders and they are talking in a low tone of voice.

They are asked point-blank where they obtain the millions and millions of pesos required not only to build this camp but also to provide uniforms and weapons for the force of 5,000 or 6,000 men which they claim to have. From kidnappings? No, they say and while they admit that they have kidnapped and held people like Richard Star, they claim that at the moment they are not holding a single kidnap victim in the entire country. From drug trafficking? They reply that it is not true that they receive money from drug traffickers but, Commander Ernesto says, "we do not ask people who want to help us where they get their money." Jorge points out that the money comes from voluntary donations made by peasants and even by some rich people and Ivan insists that "the FARC have good sources of incomes because they own shares in some large companies of the country."

Just as bluntly they are asked if it is true that they are the armed tool of the Communist Party. This they emphatically deny. "We will never be the armed tool of such a minority party as the Communist Party of Colombia," says Jorge who sports a Lenin badge on his black beret. They are also asked about the shooting of peasants and why do they ambush and kill soldiers who are also Colombian peasants. After giving us a lengthy answer full of rhetoric, they finally tell us that they do not shoot peasants who disagree with them, only those who give military information to the army. And they say that they only kill soldiers in combat and that when soldiers are captured alive they are treated as prisoners of war.

But if they are so keen on making peace, why have they created two new fronts and why are they showing this camp in a move which really amounts to a show of force? They reply that they remain hopeful regarding the talks between their top command and the Peace Commission but cannot lower their guard or the army will destroy them. They say that they are no longer a guerrilla force but rather an army in the process of getting organized. Commander Ernesto reports that pilots, ship captains, electricians, doctors, dentists and other personnel are undergoing training....

Listening to these men and living for a few days, with other journalists, in this guerrilla camp where a head of cattle is consumed every third day, one has the feeling that peace is in its death throes in Colombia. Peace is as frail as the sound of a wild turkey flying away through the trees in these jungles of the Caqueta where the guerrilla fighters remain so strong that they watch Betamax video and drink champagne.

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CALL FOR ELECTION, PNP BOYCOTT EXPLAINED, ASSESSED

Manley Press Conference

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 29 Nov 83 pp 1, 11

[Text] The People's National Party will not be contesting the December 15 General Election. PNP President, Mr. Michael Manley, yesterday described it as "fraudulent", "a deception", "a rape of democracy" and a breach of a "solemn pledge" between the JLP and the PNP to the people of Jamaica that no election would be called until a new system of voter registration and identification was ready.

Mr. Manley said that, aside from the breach of the pledge, the PNP was concerned about 150,000 young people who are not on the 1980 Voters List which will be used in the December 15 election will have no constitutional right to participate, and that list will have on it more than 100,000 persons who have either died or migrated. This, he said, represented an opportunity for fraud and bogus voting.

However, he said, the PNP will not condone or permit the establishment of a one-party State and will ceaselessly, but within the law and the Constitution, build the PNP. He said that the PNP would today announce the appointment of 60 persons to represent the PNP in the constituencies in the island until elections are "properly called" on a new electoral list and under the new system agreed on.

Mr. Manley spoke at a press conference at the Party's headquarters in Kingston to outline the decision taken by the National Executive Council (NEC) of the party not to contest the elections.

A copy of a letter to the Governor-General was released at the conference. The letter said the decision of the Prime Minister to hold elections on December 15 is "an absolute breach of faith with the people of Jamaica and, accordingly, a betrayal of democracy". The party also repudiated any responsibility for the calling of an election at this time.

Mr. Manley gave the background to the PNP's decision which he called "one of the most far-reaching decisions of its 45-year history". He said that prior to the 1980 General Election, the PNP and the JLP had agreed to

establish a fundamentally new electoral system to be based on an independent Electoral Committee which was to become an Electoral Commission entrenched in the Constitution and a system of voter identification based on photographs, thumb-prints and an identity card for each elector.

However, he said, both the JLP and the PNP had agreed to hold the 1980 General Election without the photo-identification system being in place.

"The PNP and the JLP then entered into a solemn agreement between themselves and jointly made a pledge to the people of Jamaica that, whoever won, there would never again be a General Election in Jamaica until the new system of voter registration and identification was ready," he said.

This pledge, he said, was repeated on more than one occasion in Parliament.

Mr. Manley said that he would this week be revealing written correspondence between the JLP and the PNP in which it was agreed not to hold any elections before the new system is put in place.

Mr. Manley said that on "four separate occasions" the Party has gone out of its way to give the most solemn warning to the Government "that we expected them to honour their undertakings and that the PNP would not in fact participate in any elections called on an old list and before the new system is ready".

Mr. Manley said, "In spite of the pledge to the nation given in 1980, and the warnings which we gave recently, the Prime Minister chose to call an election in absolute breach of his solemn pledge. On those grounds alone we cannot and will not legitimize what we regard as a fraud on the Jamaican people".

Mr. Manley said the second concern of the PNP was the holding of the elections on the old 1980 list. As a result of this, he said, "more than 150,000 people between the ages of 18 and 21 can take no part in this election although they have a constitutional right to participate".

In addition, he said, included on the old list will be 100,000 persons who have either died or migrated and, in the absence of positive voter identification, those names represent "the most massive opportunity for bogus voting and electoral fraud ever presented in the history of Jamaican politics".

"The young people who cannot take part represent more than 15 percent or approximately 150,000 of the potential electorate. The 100,000 or more names of dead or migrated persons represents another 10 percent of the potential electorate. These figures, when combined, make a mockery of the democratic process and can ensure that the will of the people cannot be properly reflected," he said.

Mr. Manley dealt with the reasons given by the Prime Minister for calling the elections at this time. He said that the PNP's General Secretary had issued a call for the resignation of the Minister of Finance "from that

portfolio" on the grounds that he had deceived the people of Jamaica about the IMF test.

He said that there had been many such calls before for Mr. Seaga to relinquish this portfolio and to fire other Ministers in his Cabinet; but, he said, these calls, along with those of commentators that the Prime Minister over-centralises power and should divest, have all been ignored.

He said [passage illegible] that the call [passage illegible] on the whole Government to resign "is as bogus as the election that he now wishes on the country". Such calls he described as "parliamentary and political tactics" to highlight dissatisfaction.

With regard to the explanation that the elections have been called now, as investors may hold back on investment until they were assured that there was a fairly long uninterrupted period of Government, Mr. Manley said that investors would be wary of a Government that "breaches sincere agreements on the electoral process". He said that investors were not as naive as Mr. Seaga thought and would read the whole internal situation in the country.

Mr. Manley said that the party would be "ready for elections when they are called after the new system is in place" and added that the party would today "at the appropriate time" be announcing 60 persons who will be the PNP's "official Constituency representatives until such time as an election is properly called".

Dealing with the PNP's role after the December 15 elections, Mr. Manley said it must not be believed that the party would not be representing the people.

Mr. Manley said, "The PNP will not permit or condone the setting up of a one-party state. We will be there as guardians of the popular vote to see that no encroachments by dictatorship can mar the landscape of our political system".

He said Parliament was only one place where such representation could take place but he said the party would not give at this time details of how such representation would take place. He said taking to the streets had not been taken lightly by the PNP in the last three years and that such actions in the future would depend on the types of acts being protested.

The PNP President ruled out co-operation with the Workers Party of Jamaica in street action. He said, "We have nothing to do with the WPJ" or any other party, and declared that the PNP took decisions on its own.

Also at the press conference which was attended by several foreign journalists, and broadcast to hundreds of party supporters in the yard at the headquarters, were top executives of the PNP, including Chairman Mr. P.J. Patterson and General Secretary, Mr. Paul Robertson. Mrs. Edna Manley, mother of the PNP President, and his wife were also present.

Dissent in PNP

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 29 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] The GLEANER understands that at the meeting of the National Executive Council of the People's National Party on Sunday, a decision was taken, before Party Leader Michael Manley, arrived to take part in the election.

The vote was 101 to 14.

The GLEANER understands that the leading advocates of the PNP contesting were former Vice-Presidents Tony Spaulding and Howard Cooke.

When Party Leader Manley arrived, he declared that he would not accept the NEC meeting's decision. He threatened to resign, if the NEC went ahead with the decision to contest.

The GLEANER understands that Dr. D.K. Duncan, the former General Secretary, was bitter in his comments on the Leader of the PNP allowing the Prime Minister to, as he said, "outmanoeuvre him".

Eventually the NEC decided to back Mr. Manley and to pass up the General Election.

[Editor's Note: In a letter to the editor published in THE DAILY GLEANER of 1 December, page 6, Dr. Duncan refutes the above report. The text of his letter follows:]

The Editor, Sir:

The report on page 1 of the DAILY GLEANER dated Monday, November 29, 1983 reporting on the People's National Party special NEC meeting of Sunday, November 27, 1983 is a fabrication. What is the truth?

The Special NEC meeting was called by the Party President to decide one question. Does the Party contest the elections or not? This question was discussed against the background of:

(a) A solemn agreement between the PNP and the JLP as far back as 1980 that no more General Elections would be held until the new system is in place.

(b) Repeated recent warnings by at least four leaders of the Party:

- (1) Party President, Michael Manley
- (2) Party Chairman, P.J. Patterson
- (3) General Secretary, Paul Robertson
- (4) The Leader of Opposition Business, Seymour Mullings

That the PNP would not contest any General Elections before the New System is in place.

The Party President opened and closed the debate and he was present for the entire meeting which was Chaired by Comrade P.J. Patterson.

Several persons spoke on the question. What was unique about the contributions was that all speakers gave their ideas of the pros and cons before saying what was their preference.

Only one vote was taken--and that was at the end of the discussions. The NEC decided by a vote of (secret ballot) 128-14 to confirm the decision of the Party's Executive that the PNP would not contest a General Election before the new system is in place.

I did not make any bitter comments about the Party President or anyone else for that matter and I fully support the position taken by the Party on the matter of this bogus election.

I am, etc.,

Dr. D.K. Duncan
November 29, 1983

PSOJ View

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 29 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

The Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica has called on the PNP to contest the Elections. In a statement last night, the PSOJ said.

"The Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica is concerned about the implications of the decision of the People's National Party not to contest the December General Elections. This decision of the PNP will deny the right to vote to the entire electorate, a denial that poses a threat to our democratic tradition.

At the same time, we deeply regret that the Government found it necessary to seek a new mandate from the electorate on the basis of the old voters' list, thereby disenfranchising all those persons who reached the age of eighteen years since the 1980 General Elections.

The PSOJ must also be concerned about the economic implications of the decision to call an Elec-

tion. Last week the Government introduced a number of new economic measures including the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar. The PSOJ takes the position that those new measures constitute the prescription needed to restore the economic health of the nation. Indeed, we had hoped that whichever Party was victorious in the forthcoming General Election, it would not deviate from that path, because the primary concern of our next Government, be it JLP or PNP, must be the economic survival of the nation — not political ideology or expediency.

Whatever the merits or demerits of the decision to call the Election may have been, subsequent events have created a situation where the only conceivable way of clearing the air is to fight a General Election. We therefore call on the People's National Party, even at this late stage, to reconsider their decision not to contest the Election."

Impact on Investments

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 29 Nov 83 pp 1, 11

[Text]

The non-participation of the People's National Party in the coming General Elections and the consequent extra-parliamentary confrontation this may cause might have adverse effects on foreign investment here as well as severe repercussions for the stability of the country, according to the Gleaner Brains Trust held yesterday.

One member of the Brains Trust, which comprised public and private sector representatives, said that the Opposition, by refusing to participate in next month's election "has not only disfranchised the young people who are not on the list used in 1980, but also the whole 40 percent or 50 percent of those people who might like to vote. Who are they to decide that the rest of the nation don't want to contest?" he asked. "The election is constitutional. Whether moral or not, it is constitutional."

Noting that the thought of having five years under a particular Government is good "from a business standpoint", one member of the Brains Trust said that in spite of the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar, if the Government has five years in which to prove that this free-market type of Government is the ideal one for the country — might be able to make the latest economic measures work.

However, he felt: "We are not really in the position right now where we can say to the investor, 'Here is five years of political stability' because he might always think: 'this is not really a Government that we know has the support of the people' and it is conceivable that people who feel themselves disenfranchised may see the Government as the one on which they should vent their spite".

People would not tend to blame their own party for disenfranchising them but may rather blame the Government.

In his opinion, it was a bit unreasonable for the Prime Minister to give the Opposition only two days notice before Nomination Day but he felt that "Government called this election not because anyone called for the resignation of the Minister of Finance but because it was politically expedient to do so. Similarly, the Opposition is not contesting, because they know they have been caught with their pants down and they know that they are going to get beaten."

However, assuming a Parliament with no Opposition comes into existence "the private sector ought not to grant the Government any honeymoon". He felt that the Government had been granted a long enough "honeymoon" and the private sector must now make sure to question and criticise constructively if it feels that the Government is going wrong it must say so.

"We are going to need a boost from the private sector and so on to make people feel that there is an effective Opposition and this will also serve to take it off the street," he said.

Another member said that the situation as it now stands must act as a deterrent to investors, although he felt that short-term investors would be more easily affected than long term entrepreneurs. Using as an example a similar situation of a General Election boycott by the Opposition Party in Trinidad and Tobago in 1971, the member said that there may not necessarily be a falling off investment here. He said, however, that "the communist threat was not as strong in Trinidad as it was Jamaica. But what the country might be faced with is extra-parliamentary activity or confrontation which may create grave problems here."

Another member said that he felt the influence of the news-media should be brought to bear, to convince the Opposition P.N.P. that they should "modify their thinking in the interest of the country" and participate in next month's election. He was optimistic that a contest might in fact take place, for he explained "there is no use the Opposition boycotting the elections unless the will of the people is in favour of boycotting".

Making the point that the method of making up an electoral list here is in his view "inadequate", another member said that even if the enumeration process was completed and a new list made up by May, the Government still had no obligation to call an election until October 1985 by which time that new list would be out of date.

"So until we have a method of permanent registration by which a person as soon as he turns 18 can take his birth certificate in and register to vote, we won't have an on-going, current list of voters," he said.

In this member's opinion, the reason why the Opposition was not contesting the election was because they were not really for an election since "the list that is tendered for the election is their list or, at least, the list that was prepared when they were in Government"; and, as such, could not be their main grouse.

One member noted Prime Minister Seaga's announcement on Saturday night that one of the reasons behind his calling a December 15 General election was the fact that a number of investors were wary of investing here because they were unsure about the stability of the Government and whether it would change when elections were held on the due date two years hence.

The member agreed that stability of government was one of the main considerations which foreign investors looked at when contemplating investing in any country. The member noted that investors are not

interested in investing in a climate of instability or confrontation of any sort, whether in Jamaica or anywhere in the Caribbean.

Another member of the Brains Trust expressed a fear that without an elected Opposition in Parliament, the Government will amount to a virtual dictatorship.

In such a situation, the onus would be on private sector organizations and the news media to assume the role of the Opposition. He felt that such organisations would, in a case where there is no elected opposition, have an obligation to assume such a role so as to "work with the Government to put the country into profitability".

But another member of the Brains Trust expressed the view that the effectiveness of the Opposition in Jamaica was not dependent on the number of seats held in Parliament. He said that history has shown this, noting that "the Jamaica Labour Party managed effectively with 13 while the Opposition has not capitalised on the fact that they had six seats and in fact their level of effectiveness is measured more by their rapport with the people".

The member continued: "As long as we maintain a democracy in which no one tampers with our Constitution in recognising the two-party system, I personally have no worry as to whether we would have a dictatorship or not. I think we will continue to have an effective opposition. But the next couple months are going to be very very tricky. I think a lot of responsibility is going to fall on the Press and our cultural Leaders.

"I for one, am disappointed that the Opposition did not decide to contest the election. If fact, to me, it has shown to some extent that they have not matured to become the next Government. They involved in a certain level of politicking... they asked the Minister of Finance to resign, and I can't change the fact that the Minister of Finance is the Prime Minister, so they have effectively called on the Prime Minister to resign... they have called for an election".

The Brain Trust member said he could not see why a "big thing" was being made of the fact that the old Electoral List will be used in the upcoming elections, as if to suggest that something illegal or manipulatory is being done. He said that it may be that "something manipulatory is being done" but said that "this is the game of politics in which every party in power calls elections when it perceives it has the best chance".

The member stressed his opinion that the December 15 election "is a legitimate one constitutionally and otherwise".

Another member said that he agreed with the Prime Minister's statement that the country needed to have "some atmosphere of calm and stability in the country and felt that a new election and a new Parliament - Opposition or not - will create this climate".

But another member felt that "a new Parliament without an Opposition is not a Parliament".

He said that a hint of "how we must try to operate Parliament" should be seen in the recent news that the Japanese had decided to have elections because the

Opposition there had boycotted Parliament which might be attractive to the Prime Minister is very myopic.

The justification in economics for election now is that you can give investors the guarantee of five years of your administration and, you know, it is not so easy for a new Government coming in to divest existing firms so the investor may well think that he is looking at about eight years down the road.

"But that is not what you are giving him if a sizeable number of the electorate are hostile to the Government and have no voice in Parliament. They would not be obliged to abide by any of the rules of the game because the Government had made them without consultation. You are not giving them (the investors) that in a climate where things are going to turn very bad within a year".

"Let us face this. One reason why the Prime Minister has called elections now is that next year, which would be a much better time from everybody's point of view, is a period that is going to be very unfavourable to the Government."

The member said that by calling this election Jamaica will "lose all of the advantage that the devaluation give us. I can't help thinking that we might be blowing it. And I do hope that the Prime Minister thinks again".

The member said that he did not see any justification for the Prime Minister to call an election simply because the P.N.P. had asked him to resign as Minister of Finance. This he described as a fundamental error, explaining:

The P.N.P. in Parliament did not call for the Prime Minister's resignation. It was the P.N.P. out of Parliament, and I would say that Paul Robertson in terms of parliamentary procedure has as much right to demand the Prime Minister's resignation as I have.

"What I would do, therefore, in the present circumstances, to get back the advantage that the P.M. had only a week ago, would be to ask the Leader of the Opposition to repudiate the call of the party functionary and ask for an assurance that the Government would be support in whatever strong measures it takes.

"In the meantime, I would get the electoral process completed and if this is through about June I think the courageous Government that goes to the electorate and says 'We have a rough package but we are sure you will understand the reason for the roughness' - I still feel that such a Government might be returned though possibly with a reduced majority but with a moral mandate".

This latter suggestion found some favour with another member, although he felt that if the Opposition is going to withdraw its call for the resignation of the Minister of Finance then it must also withdraw the charge of dishonesty.

"He (Mr. Seaga cannot live with that over his head. He has been charged with dishonesty. His integrity on the international scale has been impugned and he cannot live with that. So if they are going to withdraw they must withdraw the whole thing," he declared.

Workers Party Position

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 29 Nov 83 p 11

[Text]

The decision of the Opposition People's National Party not to contest the general elections to be held December 15, was described yesterday by the general secretary of the Workers' Party of Jamaica, Dr. Trevor Munroe, as "the only correct and sensible decision under circumstances where 150,000 young persons had come of age since 1980 and where an agreement existed in relation to the new voters' list".

Dr. Munroe held a press conference at the WPJ headquarters in Kingston to state the party's reaction to the decision to hold a general election, announced by Prime Minister Edward Seaga on Saturday night and the PNP's reaction not to contest the election.

He said there was also another reason why the WPJ considered the PNP's decision to be the only correct and sensible thing to do. This was that the elections were being called in circumstances where the full severity of the economic measures that had been announced and were still to be announced, were not yet fully known, much less felt.

Dr. Munroe said there was another aspect which

he felt had been deliberately hidden from the people: that the stand-by credit facility available under the International Monetary Fund and due to begin in January 1984, had yet to be negotiated.

The election called for December 15, he said, was aimed at making legitimate and extending by unfair means, the life of government policies, and this would have a devastating effect on all working people in the country, regardless of their political affiliation.

He said the WPJ had taken a decision that "whilst we will continue preparations to contest any popularly held elections on the basis of the new voters' lists, as a matter of principle, we will not be putting up any candidate in Seaga's sneak December 15 elections or any elections which deprives tens of thousands of Jamaican youth of the right to vote..."

Giving a breakdown of the disfranchisement, he said that in all, 152,500 were affected, broken down as follows: 50,900 eighteen-year-olds, 50,900 nineteen-year-olds, and 50,700 twenty-year-olds.

Seaga on Substitute for PNP

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 30 Nov 83 pp 1, 23

[Text] People-based organizations and the Jamaican people will be asked to provide representation of a higher level than the PNP Parliamentary Opposition used to provide, Prime Minister Edward Seaga, said yesterday.

Making a statement after being nominated to contest the West Kingston constituency which he has won in every general election since 1962, Mr. Seaga said he regretted the decision of the PNP not to contest the election as he had been looking forward to "the test of confidence" of the people which an election contested by the PNP and the JLP would provide.

Mr. Seaga who arrived at the Nomination Centre, Denham Town Primary School at 1 p.m., accompanied by thousands of supporters, said that the records should show that "despite the smokescreen", the PNP was not ready and in "plain language what they were afraid of was a beating."

Mr. Seaga said that if there was ever a time when a party should not have participated in an election it was the JLP in 1976. He said that in 1976 there was a State of Emergency under which three candidates of the JLP, including a Deputy Leader, were locked up along with other supporters of the party. Hundreds of other JLP supporters were made to feel that they too would be locked up under the State of Emergency, he said. However, even in

those circumstances, the JLP's respect for democracy made the party participate and it got one of the "worst beatings" in its history, he said.

Mr. Seaga said that the PNP "pushed" the Government "into a position where they had to go to the people" and hold elections and seek the confidence of the people. He said the PNP was not ready for an election and feared "another beating...Dem draw bad card," Mr. Seaga said, to cheers and shouts from a bell-ringing, flag-waving crowd at the heavily guarded nomination centre in West Kingston.

Mr. Seaga said, "The PNP has been the weakest opposition that the nation has ever had". The new Government which will be formed by the JLP will, he said, "create the mechanism" by which people-based organizations and people of Jamaica will provide the type of representation that the PNP would not be capable of providing for the people. He did not elaborate.

At 2:00 p.m., with no other candidate nominated, Returning Officer, Mrs. Clover Thompson read the proclamation returning Mr. Seaga by acclaim to Parliament.

Manley Elaboration

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 30 Nov 83 p 23

[Text]

The Peoples National Party President, Mr. Michael Manley has said that the Party had not questioned the Prime Minister's legal right in calling snap elections but that the Party was arguing that a pledge was given in Parliament and to the nation that whatever the legal rights were, a general election would not be called until a new system and a new list were in place.

Reacting to a report that the Prime Minister did not agree that a pledge had been given by him in writing as claimed by Mr. Manley on Monday, the PNP leader said that: "If what Mr. Seaga is saying is that his word given in Parliament and the Electoral Committee meeting and in all the exchanges between the parties has no meaning, I could only express my astonishment that he would confess that so quickly while saying that he's not speaking the truth."

Mr. Manley, told reporters at a news conference at the Pegasus Hotel yesterday that: "I bet you on this, he(Mr. Seaga) never dares play fast and loose with the political system in this country again, I promise you that."

The PNP President made these comments as he announced 60 prospective candidates whom he described as "representatives." (Please see a full report in tomorrow's paper).

PNP's 60 'Representatives'

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Dec 83 p 11

[Text]

Peoples National Party President, Mr. Michael Manley has named 60 constituency "representatives" to speak for what he said were the legitimate concerns of the people and that they would be representing them "until such time as a proper electoral system is in place."

Mr. Manley who was speaking at a news conference at the Pegasus Hotel on Tuesday said that he wanted to assure the nation that the PNP intended to ensure by peaceful and legal means that the present situation was temporary.

"The question of whether or not there will be an election is behind us. As of now the reality is that there will be a bogus Parliament, a bogus Government and possibly a bogus Opposition," he said.

Mr. Manley called upon "democratically minded citizens" to join the Party in insisting that the Electoral Advisory Committee moved with urgency to complete the Enumeration Exercise and put the new electoral system in place.

As soon as the system was ready, Mr. Manley told reporters, the PNP was ready to contest Parliamentary or local General Elections.

He quoted Mr. Seaga as allegedly saying in 1980 that "any attempt to foist another "dishonest election" in the country would meet with islandwide resistance and the very electoral process might be set aside in the struggle to defend political rights." Mr. Manley said he found it very interesting that those were Mr. Seaga's words in 1980 in the matter of dishonest elections and that was the way he (Mr. Seaga) thought that democracy should be preserved at that time.

If the PNP decided to contest the elections, he said the Party would have had no problems in the nominations for Tuesday and in mounting its campaign although the time was short. Most of the PNP's list was ready long ago.

"We will also be running a campaign. It's just that the campaign will be directed to slightly different ends," he said.

Responding to the Constitutional interpretation of noted lawyer, Dr. Lloyd Barnett on the calling of the elections, he said that as to whether the disfranchisement of nearly 180,000 human beings was unconstitutional he begged forgiveness to express profound concern at the lawyers position.

Mr. Manley said that for three years there had been no registration of voters and as a consequence 180,000 people did not have their constitutional right and the law prescribing how they should enjoy their right had been abrogated for three consecutive years.

Mr. Manley said that the whole plural system was in great danger if that kind of corruption was permitted to proceed and what saved it was the action of the PNP which was taking place right now.

He noted that the PNP did not have revolutionary intentions because it was not the style of the Party.

"We are not a revolutionary Party; nor is it our style to be revolutionary," he said.

The international community was very concerned as everybody was about the actions taken by Mr. Seaga in calling snap elections, however he would not be indicting to what had happened. "This is our business and we are going to settle it our way in our country."

Mr. Seaga he said had brought a lot of trouble upon himself that he (Mr. Seaga) was not going to be able to handle.

"The PNP has the moral authority and the organisational depth and strength to be able to conduct the affairs of Opposition in the way that I will outline tomorrow (tonight) effectively that channels the energies of discontent in a constructive way within the political system," he said.

The PNP did not conduct any independent polls to test its strength; however the June Polls done by Carl Stone which was not published because it was conducted privately, the PNP was 57 per cent and the JLP 43 per cent then the Grenada crisis switched that to the reverse.

He stressed that when the PNP warned publicly that it would not contest an election on the basis of the kind of fraud that had taken place, the Poll at that time was showing the PNP 57 per cent and the JLP 43 per cent. All of the subsequent statements were made when information on the Poll showed that the Party was massively ahead, he said.

The names of the representatives are:

REGION 1: North Trelawny, Mr. Desmond Leakey, South Trelawny, Lindell Frater, North West St. Ann, Mr. Arnold Bertram, North East St. Ann, Mr. Manley Bowen, South East St. Ann, Mr. Seymour Mullings, South West St. Ann Mr. Newton Richards.

REGION 2: West St. Mary, Mr. Bobby Pottinger, West Central St. Mary, Mr. Horace Clarke, East Central St. Mary, Mr. Terry Gillette, South East St. Mary, Mr. Harry Douglas, West Portland, Mr. Olive McFarquhar, East Portland, Mr. Derrick Stone.

REGION 3: East St. Thomas, Mr. W.W. Higgins, West St. Thomas, Mr. Lowell Marcus, East Kingston, Mr. Hugh Small, East Central Kingston, Mr. Michael Manley, West Central Kingston, Mr. Ralph Brown, West Kingston, Mr. Clinton Davy, South West St. Andrew, Miss Portia Simpson, South St. Andrew, Mr. Anthony Spaulding, East Central St. Andrew, Mr. Arthur Jones, West Central St. Andrew, Miss Minna Wilmore, South East St. Andrew, Mr. Bobby Jones, East St. Andrew, Mr. Oswald Seymour, North Central St. Andrew, Mr. Merrick Miller, North West St. Andrew, Mr. Carlyle Dunkley, East Rural St. Andrew, Mr. John Junior, West Rural St. Andrew, Mr. Paul Robertson, West St. Andrew, Mr. Dudley Thompson.

REGION 4: South East St. Catherine, Mr. Lee, Cooke, South Central St. Catherine, Mr. Ferdie Neita, South West St. Catherine, Mr. Ruddy Lawson, West Central St. Catherine, Miss Eugenia Gardner, East Central St. Catherine, Mr. K.D. Knight, North East St. Catherine, Miss Phyllis Mitchell, North West St. Catherine, Mr. Robert Pickersgill, South East Clarendon, Mr. Derrick Lambert, South West Clarendon, Mr. O.D. Ramtallie, Central Clarendon, Miss Donna Bhorasingh, North Central Clarendon, Miss Olga Clarke, North Clarendon, Mr. Horace Dalley, North West Clarendon, Mr. Carl Marshall.

REGION 5: South Manchester, Mr. Douglas Manley, Central Manchester, Mr. Eric Sanderman, North West Manchester, Mr. Dean Pearl, North East Manchester, Mr. Calvin Lyn, North East St. Elizabeth, Mr. Sydney Pagon, South East St. Elizabeth, Mr. Derrick Rochester, South West St. Elizabeth, Mr. Donald Buchanan, North West St. Elizabeth, 74x, Caswell Daley.

REGION 6: South East Westmoreland, Mr. P.J. Patterson, North East Westmoreland, Mr. Jim Thompson, Central Westmoreland, Mr. Fred Hamaty, West Westmoreland, Mr. Clayton Morgan, West Hanover, Mr. Ben Clare, East Hanover, Mr. Aston King, South St. James, Mr. Derrick Kellier, West Central St. James, Mr. Francis Tulloch, North West St. James, Mr. Carl Miller and East Central St. James, Miss Violet Neilson.

[Editor's Note: On the same page, THE DAILY GLEANER carried the following report: The PNP announced yesterday that Mr. Roger Clarke is to be the new Constituency Representative for Central Westmoreland. Mr. Clarke replaces Mr. Freddy Hamaty "who is unable at this time to take on the task of representing the people of Central Westmoreland", a PNP news release said.]

Municipal Elections Boycott

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Dec 83 p 2

[Text] Eighteen Peoples National Party (PNP) Councillors in the Kingston and Saint Andrew Corporation (KSAC) said on Tuesday that they would not contest any Municipal Elections before a new Electoral System becomes operational.

They said that they were prepared and ready to contest elections any day after the new voters' list was ready.

Municipal Elections are not due before 1984.

Denial of PNP Rift

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Mr. P.J. Patterson, chairman of the People's National Party, has denied Tuesday's GLEANER report that the National Executive Council of the Party had wished to contest the December 15, General Election, but has deferred to the wishes of Mr. Michael Manley, the leader of the party who had threatened to resign if the NEC had gone ahead with a decision to contest the election.

In the **Gleaner** report, Mr. Tony Spaulding and Mr. Howard Cooke were listed as having argued for the PNP to contest the election. The report also said that Dr. D. K. Duncan had told Mr. Manley in the meeting that he had allowed the Prime Minister Mr. Edward Seaga to outmanoeuvre him.

Mr. Patterson in his statement, described the report as a 'concoction'.

Mr. Patterson's version of what took place is as follows:

As Chairman of the Party I wish to state the following incontrovertible facts:-

- (1) A meeting of the Party Executive was convened at Party Office around 5.00 p.m. on Sunday 27th. After discussion it was agreed that any decision on the matter should be taken by the National Executive Council.
- (2) The meeting of the National Executive Council commenced around 7.00 p.m. on Sunday 27th. After discussion it was agreed that any decision on the matter should be taken by the National Executive Council.
- (2) The meeting of the National Executive Council commenced around 7.00 p.m. at N.W.U. Headquarters. It was called to order by me. The Party Leader arrived at approximately 6.40 p.m., some 20 minutes before the meeting began.
- (3) After opening formalities, there was a full debate and discussion during which over 25 members expressed their views. All those who spoke indicated their preparedness to accept the final decision of the National Executive Council of the Party in what was admittedly a complex matter of historic significance.

(4) The **Gleaner** made mention of specific names. I am obliged to state that at no time did Mr. Howard Cooke participate in the debate. The contribution of Tony Spaulding gave a sober assessment of the situation. Like that of Dr. D.K. Duncan and the many other speakers it was at all times constructive. The debate raised fully the pros and cons of the issue. To state that Dr. Duncan was bitter in his comments was untrue. At no time did he suggest that the Leader of the People's National Party had allowed the Prime Minister to "outmanoeuvre him".

- (5) Only one vote was taken. On the instance of the Party Leader this was done on secret ballots. It was on the simple issue whether or not the PNP should contest the elections. The results were that 128 voted against contesting the elections, 14 in favour of running and 2 abstained with 1 vote spoilt. At no time did the Party Leader declare that he would not accept the decision of the National Executive Council. Naturally, he like other speakers weighed all the issues but expressed his own clear preference.
- (6) Prior to the announcement by Mr. Seaga of December 15 as the election date, the Party Leader, Michael Manley; the Party Chairman, P.J. Patterson; the Vice President, Seymour Mullings and the entire Executive had on separate and several occasions made clear that the Party would on no account participate in an election until the new electoral list and system were in place. The NEC by its vote endorsed this position.

Republican Party Statement

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Dec 83 p 21

[Text]

The Republican Party of Jamaica has said that its decision to nominate candidates indicate a willingness to be part of the decision-making body of the State.

A statement issued by Mr. V. G. Smith, the President of the party, who was nominated for West Central Kingston, said:

"We as concerned citizens and members of the Republican Party do hereby indicate by our nominations our willingness to be a part of the decision-making body in matters of State and national concern at parliament level.

"There are a number of very urgent issues that demand immediate attention of which we feel ourselves able to offer positive approach and solutions. Issues such as the burning question of unemployment — especially among the Youths. Housing or rather the lack of it, and high rentals. The ever-increasing high-cost-of-living. Poor sanitation. The total collapse of

sane, dependable, safe and comfortable public transportation system.

"The need to have official conduct conducive to the restoration of hope for the present and faith in the future in what can be Paradise Jamaica — if handled sincerely and competently by those in whose hands we place the authority to govern.

"What the people of Jamaica need, and indeed deserve, are not strategies to win elections. Instead, we need to have a team of gifted and dedicated elected administrators striving valiantly to find strategies to make Jamaica and the people of Jamaica great and strong.

"While it seems reasonably sure that Mr. Seaga and his team of Merry-men will keep Jamaica safe and democratic and free from dangerous 'isms', we assert our right to accept a leadership role the spirit of the time demands, and to be active participants in a collective, co-operative effort to find solutions to our many problems for all Jamaicans of whatever race,

colour or social class and to steadfastly pursue the principle that: Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Freedom.

"We beg and count on the public support to our candidates at the polls".

The other Republican candidate is Mr. Clive Smith, the son of Mr. V.G. Smith. He is contesting the West Rural St. Andrew constituency.

Seaga on PNP Action

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] History will judge whether the PNP, in deciding not to contest the election, has served the country well, Prime Minister Edward Seaga said yesterday.

In a news release from Jamaica House, the Prime Minister said that on Nomination Day, Tuesday, November 29, the Jamaica Labour Party nominated 60 candidates to contest elections which have been set for Thursday, December 15. In 54 constituencies the Jamaica Labour Party candidates were the only ones nominated and are therefore constitutionally elected unopposed as the representatives of the people in these constituencies.

In the other six constituencies, elections will be held on December 15 unless the opposing candidates decide for their own reason not to contest. These are the constituencies of St. Ann South East, Kingston West Central, St. Andrew West Rural, St. Mary West, St. James East Central and Westmoreland Western.

The news release went on:

"Under the Constitution the Jamaica Labour Party will be called upon to form the next Government of Jamaica which will be sworn in shortly after December 15.

"In the meantime the Ministers in the present administration will remain in office until the new administration is sworn in.

"I regret that the major opposition party--the People's National Party--decided not to contest this election; history will judge whether in doing so they have served the country well."

Manley on 'People's Forums'

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Dec 83 pp 1, 14

[Text] The People's National Party (PNP) plans to start what Party President Mr. Michael Manley describes as a "Peoples Forum" in Kingston to debate the issues in "our Parliament".

"We'll find out every law that's going to be introduced, and although we would like to stand in Parliament and say what is wrong with the law, as soon as we can we're going to get back inside to say that when a new list and system is in place," he said.

Addressing a vast crowd of thousands of PNP supporters at the Half Way Tree Square on Wednesday night after he announced the constituency "representatives" for Kingston and St. Andrew, Mr. Manley said at least every month the leaders of the PNP would be heard making the same speech in Pegasus as they would have made in Gordon House.

Mr. Manley said that when a Minister made a speech, that Minister would have to listen to RJR, JBC and read the **Gleaner** to know what the PNP would be saying as these media houses would be represented at the "Peoples Forum", including the Party's official organ, **Rising Sun**.

If the Government wanted to pass laws where the PNP showed them that it was wrong, Mr. Manley said let them beware that in due course the "we shall be there to repeal all the errors they have made."

Calling the present thrust of the PNP a "New Beginning", Mr. Manley said that there were some people who believed that the Party's refusal to contest the elections was because the Party was going to start some trouble in Jamaica.

"We have not started any trouble nor will we and I say to all of you with all the authority of my leadership, you're to be absolutely disciplined. We seek no confrontation and what we are going to do is within the law and within the

Constitution. If they bring problem to us, no man move unless you hear the word from me," he said.

Outlining the role of the 60 constituency "representatives" some of whom he said were not candidates but the majority would run in an election whenever the time came, Mr. Manley said that each of them would be required to build organisations in the constituency in a different form.

The PNP President said that the "representatives would meet each week to review the problems of the constituency which normally would have been channelled to the Members of Parliament; however the Party did not have representatives in Parliament at this time.

"What you want to know is that there is a means for your bad news say a bridge had broken down to reach the power and if the power don't come and fix the bridge, you make it known that you're going to protest for the bridge to be fixed," he said.

Parliament, he said was what might be called the cornerstone of the system where laws were arranged and things done and it was due all the respect at all times and respected by the people only when they know it was a genuine Parliament what was in there was what the people genuinely wanted.

"Parliament don't have a magic by itself; it gets its authority from you. The day you're bogussed, Parliament has no authority any more. The Parliament that is about to enter Gordon House on December 16 has no moral or political authority before the people of Jamaica. And you will only get back that authority

when an election is held on a new system and a new list," he said.

In the meantime the constituency "representatives" were going to be used to pass the news of the problems as they did before.

Mr. Manley said that the "representatives were going to be asked to do something of an even deeper importance: that of trying to forget the politics in the struggle for rights because both JLP and PNP were suffering.

"One of the things we're going to try, I don't know if it's going to succeed, but we're going to try, since we now have a bogus Government and Parliament coming through a bogus election, we are going to say to the "representatives" when they're organising, go into each constituency and say to everybody come together as one people.

"If it's sports ground you need let's argue about that, if it's jobs you need, co-operate, let's argue about that. And who will forget JLP-PNP just

for one minute let's come together and try form a group of people that say we all have problems and suffering let's try to find the answers together," he said to roaring applause.

Said he: "Comrades, I can't tell you if it's going to work because I know that it's a lot of history against me, a lot of history that says if you and I are the same, we have the same number of pickney, we have the same problem with the bad sewer main beating us down, lack of housing, hope and chance but something tells us that we have to fire shot at each other. It's a long tradition, maybe I'm not big enough to stop it but God is my judge, I'm going to try."

He said that because "this man" had brought the corruption "upon us", it was a good thing may be because the PNP was not taking on the corruption. The Party, he said was not into corruption but it had to have the representation which could be done but "may be we have a chance to make a new start and build a new beginning of democracy in which the people come together about their problems, causes and interest."

Mr. Manley recalled the talks before the 1980 elections to set up a new electoral system and said that an agreement was reached that no elections would be held after 1980 without a new system in place.

He said that the JLP had breached an honour and principle when they called snap elections without the new electoral arrangement with thumb-print and ID cards and a new list, depriving 180,000 Jamaicans the right to vote.

"My first demand on behalf of my Party is that we're demanding that the minute the new system is ready that kick out the 100,000 dead men and bring in the 180,000 live men, this country must have elections the very next day. Any time that happens, we are ready and Jamaica will be ready. As long as 100,000 dead men in and 180,000 live men out, no elections," Mr. Manley said.

Manley Explanations for Boycott

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Dec 83 pp 1, 14

[Text] Mr. Michael Manley, President of the People's National Party, has begun discussions with various bodies and interest groups to explain the reasons for the decision of the PNP not to contest the December 15, 1983, General Election, and how the party intends to represent the people outside of Parliament.

Mr. Manley first met with representatives of the Diplomatic Corps Tuesday morning during which he explained why the PNP took the decision it has taken.

At the meeting at the Terra Nova Hotel, in Kingston, Mr. Manley repeated to the diplomats that the People's National Party is prepared to contest any Elections called, once the new system is in place.

Mr. Manley told the diplomats that because the electoral process has always been open to charges of electoral fraud, it was decided to change the system. He repeated that both the JLP and the PNP had agreed that after the 1980 general election, which saw limited reform to the system, there would be no holding of General Elections until the system was fully in place.

Mr. Manley said that the Government, by calling Election for December 15, 1983, had breached the agreement between the parties, disfranchised nearly 180,000 young people who had reached the ages of 18-21 and opened the way for bogus voting as the names of some 100,000 people were on the 1980 list who had either died or migrated.

After the meeting with the Diplomats, Mr. Manley met with representatives of various interest groups in the Jamaican society at the Pegasus Hotel.

In attendance at this meeting were representatives from the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica, the Manufacturers Association, the Jamaica Exporters Association, the Jamaica Council of Churches, the Caribbean Conference of Churches, the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce, the Bankers Association, the Bar Association, the Jamaica Council for Human Rights, the Nurses Association, the Medical Association, the Junior Doctors Association, the Dental Association, among others.

At this meeting which lasted over two hours, Mr. Manley again repeated the Party's intention to contest any elections once the new system is put in place.

Mr. Manley, in a detailed presentation, gave the background to the agreement between the JLP and PNP regarding no elections until the new system is in place.

Mr. Manley gave the assurance that the People's National Party would not be party to the establishment of a one-party state and pointed to the fact that the Referendum Clauses of the Constitution safeguards the country's democracy.

PNP 'Proof' of JLP Breach

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Dec 83 pp 1, 13

[Text] Peoples National Party President Mr. Michael Manley presented 16 exhibits of what he said were extensively researched material to prove that the Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga and the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) breached an agreement not to hold elections until the new electoral system was in place.

Mr. Seaga, responding earlier this week to Mr. Manley's argument that an agreement had been forged on the new electoral arrangement, dismissed this view as he stated that he was not party to a written agreement on the electoral system.

Speaking at a news conference yesterday, Mr. Manley said attempts had been made to question the sincerity of the PNP as a result of its decision not to contest the December 15, General Elections and its stand against the Government's "contemptuous betrayal of a solemn pledge not to hold Parliamentary elections until the new electoral system is in place."

Stating that there were two stages to the relevant events, Mr. Manley said that the first stage began in 1978 and ended with the decisions affecting the 1980 elections and "pledges and commitments were made with respect to the future." This covered the period immediately following the victory at the polls by the PNP on December 15, 1976 and April 10, 1980.

The second stage, he said covered the period beginning in September 1981, when he first began to develop real and serious doubts about the intentions of the JLP Government to honour the commitments and pledges arrived at during the first sequence.

This was reflected in the several warnings by him as early as April 1982 and culminated in the more recent warnings in November 1983 by him and other senior Party spokesmen, resulting in the PNP's decision to boycott the elections of December 1983.

"IN EVERY ELECTION since 1944, there had been charge and counter charge by both political parties about the conduct and integrity of the electoral machinery. Indeed, for example in 1976, Mr. Seaga congratulated the PNP on a clear and decisive victory."

However, within a few months, Mr. Manley said that the JLP was claiming all manner of irregularities and mounted some 20 petitions of which they abandoned most but pressed on with the most famous Buck/King case. Mr. Manley added that it was against this background that the two major parties, after intensive discussions, decided on a comprehensive approach towards Electoral Reform.

This led to the establishment of a Joint Committee between the Parties. This in turn produced a 7-point memorandum which provided the foundation for the work of a Joint Select Parliamentary Committee, embracing both the House of Representatives and the Senate, both with equal representation.

This agreement, he said formed the basis for the legislation entitled Representation of the People (Interim Electoral Reform) Act 1979 which was unanimously passed in the same year.

The law provided for the setting up of the Electoral Advisory Committee, appointed by the Governor General and consisting of representatives from the parties and three independent members who would be appointed by consultation between the JLP and PNP.

Unanimous agreement was reached between the Parties, Mr. Manley said on the main features of the new electoral system. These features were enumeration on a house to house basis, updating of the lists, identification card, thumb-printing and integrity kit.

Telling of what transpired to alter the system to allow for the holding of elections in 1980, Mr. Manley said that he had communicated with the PNP's representatives and to the select members the urgency to

put in place the system as soon as possible in the national interest.

This included the proposal that the photographic system could be delayed to facilitate this. Mr. Manley noted that the Committee indicated to him that for the integrity of the system, all features were necessary. A letter from the Chairman of the Electoral Advisory Committee confirmed the decision to put in place the additional features, the photographic system and the integrity equipment.

Mr. Manley said that both parties gave the letter their unanimous approval. On March 26, 1980, he said the then Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Seaga met with the Select members of the Committee and among other things suggested that the decision to photograph all electors during the enumeration process should be held in abeyance for the purpose of the "next general elections".

FOLLOWING THE MEETING the Chairman Professor G. E.M. Mills communicated to him, Mr. Manley said to the effect: "While the Committee are prepared to implement this modified system in the interests of facilitating the holding of general elections at a date earlier than that indicated in my letter of February 25, that is early December 1980, this agreement related to the short term only. The Committee adhere to their original conclusion concerning the need to include the photographing feature as an element in respect of future elections."

Mr. Manley said that with this agreement, they proceeded to the General Parliamentary elections of 1980 and the Local Government Elections of March 1981.

Following the Local Government election the Committee with both parties represented returned to the task of putting in place all the features of the new electoral system which had required an estimated nine months for completion when it was interrupted by both parties in 1980.

Mr. Manley told the newsmen that when his first doubts arose he spoke to and wrote Mr. JAG Smith. Mr. Manley quoted in his letter: "I am very glad that our conversation (telephone) was able to dispel the danger of any misunderstanding and that both parties are clearly committed to uphold the honourable understanding arrived at 1979."

Six months had elapsed since the Local Government Elections and very little progress had been made. In addition the responsibility for delineation of constituency boundaries was still being carried out by the Parliamentary committee and not the Electoral Advisory Committee as was agreed.

The Commission declared its hope to have the system in place before the possibility of a new Local Government Election due in March 1984. This was communicated to the Minister, Mr. Manley said, by the select members of the Committee as a result of a decision of the entire committee.

Mr. Manley said he took the opportunity in his Budget contribution of April 29, 1983 to raise the

ment to the Government and nation. (**Daily Gleaner** April 30, 1982. The Prime Minister, Mr. Manley said was incensed that his integrity might be in question that he immediately responded with a public statement (May 1, 1982): "The lead story in this morning's **Daily Gleaner** on the contribution by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Michael Manley in the Budget Debate highlights what Mr. Manley calls his suspicions that Government may not honour the arrangement for formalising the Electoral Committee and carrying out the Identification Card system (with photographs) proposed as part of the electoral reforms.

"During Mr. Manley's observations I indicated to him that he need not belabour the point as the

Government was fully committed to the programme of electoral reforms. Mr. Manley repeated my assurance publicly at that point."

Mr. Manley said that after the enumeration process began with the photo-ID system, once again rumours of a doublecross commence to surface. "I gave warning at a press conference on November 2. The executive of the Party held a meeting and authorised the Party Chairman to issue a statement. The Leader of the Opposition Business repeated the warning in a letter to the **Gleaner**.

"It is a fraud and a betrayal which we will not legitimise by our participation," Mr. Manley said

PNP Rally

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Dec 83 p 2

[Text]

OCHO RIOS, St. Ann, Dec. 2 (From our correspondent).

A crowd of about 6,000 persons from Portland, St. Ann, Irelawny and St. Mary packed the square in front of the Port Maria Post Office on Thursday night for a political meeting held by the PNP.

The rally was held in the evening on the lawn in front of the Port Maria Post Office, who presided over the constituency representatives.

One of the St. Mary Western constituency, which was formerly represented by the late Mr. A. Bobby Brown, the constituency representative for St. Mary South East is Mr. Horace Clarke. Mr. Terence Gillette is the con-

stituency representative for St. Mary East Central and Mr. Horace Clarke represents St. Mary West Central.

Mr. Manley called for unity among the people so that Jamaica could be built on a foundation of united people. He referred to the December 15 election as "bogus" and said his party would not contest the election.

He recalled the amount of lives that were lost in the 1980 general election campaign and appeal to the crowd that there be no confrontation and no violence.

He said the PNP would contest the next election as soon as the new voters' list was presented so that the thousands of young people whose names were not on the 1980 list would have a chance to vote.

Other speakers included Mr. Desmond Leaky, Mr. Horace Clarke, Mr. Terence Gillette, and Mr. Seymour Mullings.

Manley on 'Broken Pledge'

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 5 Dec 83 p 6

[Memorandum by Michael Manley sent to the press on Saturday, 3 December]

[Text] 1. The Electoral Advisory Committee was established by Act of Parliament passed unanimously in 1979.

2. The Committee consisted of three independent members chosen by the Governor-General AND two members of each Party appointed by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

3. Whenever the Committee decides a matter unanimously, this forms the basis of an absolute and binding agreement between the two parties through their representatives.

4. In 1980 the JLP members were Bruce Golding and Abe Dabdoub. The PNP members were Paul Robertson and O.K. Melhado.

5. On February 22, 1980 the Committee decided the following principles:

"(i) To ensure that every citizen who is qualified is allowed to exercise his/her right to vote in accordance with the Law;

"(ii) To ensure that no citizen who is not qualified to vote is allowed to do so;

"(iii) To ensure preservation of the "one-person-one-vote" principle of a democratic state;

"(iv) To ensure that the outcome of all elections truly represents the will of the electorate.

"These objectives are set within the context of providing an electoral system which is fair, impartial, honest and efficient--a system whose integrity will command and justify public confidence."

6. 5 above is a direct quotation and the evidence of this is the letter of Professor G.E. Mills, Chairman, writing on behalf of the FULL COMMITTEE to the Hon. Seymour Mullings, the Minister then in charge of the subject. In this same letter, Mr. Mills goes on to say that there have been improvements in the Electoral System recently but that these were not enough. He says:

"These improvements could be further strengthened by the introduction of equipment--hereafter referred to as "integrity equipment"--which is guaranteed to identify persons who have already voted, within a period of 48 hours after having done so. This mechanism would, therefore, obviate multiple voting by an individual.

"Although the above would represent significant improvements, the construction of a system based on these foundations alone, would not provide a sufficient guarantee of fairly conducted elections. A major loophole would remain open; the system would still be subject to a major source of abuse. This is the possibility of impersonation. It is essential, therefore, to provide a mechanism for positive identification of the person who presents himself/herself at the polling booth to cast his vote on election day.

"The Committee hold the view that to meet the objectives indicated earlier in this letter, the ideal system should include these two features: A means of ensuring the positive identification of persons entitled to vote and a mechanism for avoiding multiple voting. We consider that these criteria could be satisfied respectively, by the inclusion of a photograph as an integral part of the identification card (both completed during the enumeration exercise) and the use of "integrity equipment" during the actual voting process."

7. All this may be summarised as meaning that the Parties agreed:

- (i) That voters lists must be up-to-date (see principle (i) above);
- (ii) That there should be integrity equipment (integrity lamp and special ink) to stop multiple voting by the same person;
- (iii) That there should be positive identification through photographing and an ID Card with that photograph.

8. In 1980 the two political parties and the independent members of the Committee all agreed that since there was a new, up-dated list and integrity equipment; and since it would have taken a long time to get the photographing done; and since it was agreed to be urgent to hold that election as soon as possible, then:

BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES it was decided to hold the election without the positive identification through photographing.

9. On April 10 the Committee decided that this would be the last General Election held on the basis, Mills writes on behalf of all members the following:

"The Committee adhere to the original conclusion concerning the need to include the photographing feature as an element in respect of future elections."

10. In 1981, rumours began to circulate that the government may be planning to renege on the undertaking given with respect to all General Elections after the 1980 election. In the budget debate in April 1982, Mr. Manley says the following:

(DAILY GLEANER dated April 20, 1982 (front page))

"Government Thinking of Reneging on Pledge"

"The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Michael Manley, said yesterday that the Opposition had grave suspicions that the Government was thinking of reneging on its pledge about electoral reform."

"As far as we are concerned, this matter will be the vital test of whether there is any basis for any kind of good faith in this country whatsoever, and we will not regard ourselves bound to any of the normal rules of cooperation of participation unless the solemn pledge given in 1980 is kept and adhered to in its strictest form", Mr. Manley said.

11. The following day Mr. Seaga replied in the GLEANER of May 1 as follows:

"During Mr. Manley's observations, I indicated to him that he need not belabour the point as the Government was fully committed to the programme of Electoral Reforms. Mr. Manley repeated my assurance publicly at that point.

"Nonetheless, this important observation by me appears to have been missed by the GLEANER's reporters who may not have been present at the moment of time.

"The Electoral Reforms which we now enjoy have been particularly associated with my persistent efforts to have these Reforms accepted by the last Government.

"The Government's intention is to ensure that the full programme of Electoral Reforms on which we agitated as an Opposition are completed by us as a Government--inclusive of the photo identification card.

"It is to be recalled that the photo ID was introduced by a former JLP Government in the 1960s and abandoned by the Manley Government in the 1970s.

"This government will now re-introduce the ID card with photographs to ensure the elimination of bogus voting by impersonation for the next election.

"Happily the present Opposition now fully support the use of the ID Cards with photographs in the electoral system."

12. As to whether there was an agreement and a pledge, note Michael Manley's language in the GLEANER of April 30 and Seaga's reply the following day. Nowhere did Seaga suggest that there was either no pledge or no agreement. The fact is that there was a solemn pledge and an absolute agreement.

13. This Agreement could only have been ended by calling Mr. Manley as Leader of the Opposition and asking him to agree to release the government

from its obligation because of some national crisis or some other such cause. This is precisely what Mr. Manley did in 1980.

The Agreement of 1980 was actually breached in two fundamental respects:

(i) The voters lists being out of date for more than three (3) years is an absolute breach of the First Principle set out by Mills on February 22, 1980;

(ii) The failure to use the positive identification method specifically omits what was specifically pledged for future General Elections on April 10, 1980, a pledge that was renewed by Edward Seaga on May 1, 1982.

What is particularly scandalous is that 150,000 people are omitted as a result of breaking the first part of the pledge.

Then, some 100,000 dead or migrated persons open up the possibility of an avalanche of fraud because the second part of the agreement is broken with respect to positive identification.

Church Call for 'Another' Election

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 7 Dec 83 pp 1, 17

[Text] Completion of the new electoral system "as a matter of great priority" and the calling of another election as soon as possible under the new system, were called for yesterday by the Executive of the Jamaica Council of Churches.

A news release from the JCC, signed by its General Secretary, the Rev. Edmund Davis, stated that the Council met yesterday and viewed with grave concern the present political crisis surrounding the general election of 1983.

The news release continued:

"We note the reasons given by the Prime Minister for calling the Elections at this time as:

"1. The People's National Party's request for the resignation of the Minister of Finance and the calling into question of his integrity.

"2. The Government's desire for a vote of confidence.

"3. The need to create an atmosphere of stability for investment and to facilitate the policies of the Government.

"We also note the reason given by the People's National Party for not participating in the General Election as:

"The alleged breach of promise by the Governing Party in calling a General Election before the new Electoral System is in place.

"The consequences for the nation as we see them are:

- "1. The undesirability of the country having a one party Government.
- "2. No Parliamentary Opposition.
- "3. The people not being given the opportunity in all constituencies to exercise their political franchise.
- "4. The marked change in the society from one of relative calm and unity to one of growing tension, polarization and disunity.
- "5. The return of mass political street meetings which have the potential of creating violence, and instability.
- "6. The present state of affairs has the possibility of negating the objectives given by the Prime Minister at 2 and 3 above.

"The Executive of the Jamaica Council of Churches calls upon the Government of Jamaica to do all in its power to see that the new Electoral System is completed as a matter of great priority.

"We would also appeal to the Government in the interest of Democracy and the Nation to call another General Election as soon as possible to be conducted under the new Electoral System.

"The Jamaica Council of Churches intends to seek on behalf of the Churches early meetings with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in an attempt to arrive at a consensus as to the way forward. —

"The Jamaica Council of Churches appeals to the supporters of the political parties to avoid conflict and violence in all areas especially in the six (6) constituencies where the Election will be contested on December 15, 1983. All citizens should put the national interest above their personal and partisan interests.

"We would request the Ministers' Fraternal in the areas where the Election is to be contested to act as agents of unity and reconciliation among the candidates and their supporters and where possible to arrange ecumenical services of peace and goodwill.

"Finally we appeal to the Christian community to pray and work earnestly for national unity and reconciliation."

Members of the JCC are: the (Anglican) Church in Jamaica in the Province of the West Indies, the Jamaica Baptist Union, the Roman Catholic Church, the Methodist Church, the United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman, the Moravian Church, the Disciples of Christ, the Salvation Army, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Religious Society of Friends, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Operation Friendship, the Church Women United, the YMCA, the YWCA, the Student Christian Movement and the Bible Society in the West Indies.

Officers of the JCC are: the Rev. C. Evans Bailey, President; Sister Bernadette Little, Vice President, Surrey; the Rev. Robert Longmore, Vice President, Middlesex; the Rev. Dennis Kerr, Vice President, Cornwall; the Rev. Edmund Davis, General Secretary; the Rev. Webster Edwards, Treasurer; Mrs. Doreen Kircaldy, Assistant Secretary.

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 8 Dec 83 p 17

[Text]

A secret document containing the report to the annual general conference of the Peoples National Party, revealed that the Party's machinery was in no state to "seriously" challenge the Jamaica Labour Party at the Polls, according to Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga.

Mr. Seaga said that what emerged from one of the Party's Commission report of poorly attended regional seminars, was that well over 50 of the Party's constituencies were in "complete organisational shambles", ranging from having an executive in place through groups and participation in the mass fund-raising programme.

He also said that at a news conference just before their annual general conference in September the PNP had only 12 candidates in place while Mr. Seaga noted that the general state of the Party's finances had significantly affected the work of its organisers, including the General Secretary.

"The Party machinery was in no state to seriously challenge the JLP at the polls," Mr. Seaga told supporters to whom he revealed some details of the secret document at a mass rally in Stony Hill Square on Monday night.

Mr. Seaga read parts of the document to show that the People's National Party did not have any money to run in an election because the Party was in debt to the tune of over \$1 million. The Party's creditors, he said, refused to allow them any credit as they could not repay these debts.

The leader of the JLP quoted extensively from a document which he said contained the report to the 45th annual conference of the PNP, confessing the true state of affairs of the Party.

PNP LACKS FINANCE

"All of you know that to run a Party and to fight an election cost money," he said quoting state of the finances of the PNP.

He said that the report noted that when one looked at the range of programmes which the Party attempted to implement and the resources available, it became clear why "we as a Party met with mixed success."

Mr. Seaga said the document stated that with a debt of about \$1 million, only \$19,024 had been paid, less than one out of every \$50 had been repaid.

Said he: "The report goes on, inflows in into the Party fell short of our target and the implications are exceedingly serious. If financing continues at a level of the last political year, implementation for the political

year 1983/84 will be at an even lower level as inflation is going to be a serious factor in this equation.

"Important services are denied us because of our non-payment of debts. It must be a priority to discharge a significant portion of our debt during the first half of the new political year because in the event of an early election.

"Our chances would be severely limited were we not able to obtain services from some of our present creditors who presently refuse to deal with us. On the whole question of finance, the Executive has been largely ineffective."

Mr. Seaga said that the report revealed that the PNP would need \$1½ million to be able to run the Party in any political year as it set out that they could only project to spend \$1 million but of this \$1 million they only could find \$390,656.

"Anybody who can run an election without money, you tell me. And here are people that can't even find a quarter of the amount of money that they need to run just in a normal political year, much less to fight election," he said.

On the question of candidates, Mr. Seaga said that at a press conference just before the PNP annual conference, it was admitted that they only had 12 candidates in place out of 60, in September. Mr. Seaga asked if it was believed that a Party could select 48 candidates in eight weeks.

NO MONEY, NO CANDIDATES

"So they didn't have any money and they didn't have any candidates but it is only through organisation and organisation that you can make your Party ready."

Turning to how the document described the Party as dealing with organisation, Mr. Seaga said the document noted that the general state of Party finances had significantly affected the work of the organising commission. Areas affected included mobility of the general secretary; lack of stationery and ink; shortage of secretarial staff; shortage of transportation for delivery services; lack of transport for organisation; inability to provide adequate fuel and inability to obtain credit from numerous establishment due to non-payment of past debt for printing material.

"Bear with me brothers and sisters, I don't finish with them yet; they are only in the coffin now, what is left is to put on the lid and you and I going to lower them into the grave," he said.

Mr. Seaga said that the when the PNP undertook an islandwide assessment to find out why they were not functioning. Meetings were held in all the regions early

this year and in all six regions the total number of people attending the meetings amounted to 173, representing 50 per cent of the total attendance, although they had been given subsidy for bus fares.

He said that what came out of the document was that the stark fact emerging from the regional seminars was that well over 50 of the Party constituencies were in complete organisational shambles, ranging from having an executive in place through groups and participation in the mass fund raising programme.

"Finally the say, the unanimous conclusion of both the Commission and the seminar participants was that the Party was in no position to seriously challenge the Jamaica Labour Party," Mr. Seaga said.

BUSINESS TO CHALLENGE GOVT

He said it was the business of all Opposition parties to face an election any time. Referring to the pledge that Mr. Manley alleged Mr. Seaga had entered into, the Prime Minister said there were a number of things that could happen which could require the Government to go to an election and they could not be foreseen.

Mr. Seaga also said that even if the PNP had the money, fully organised and 60 candidates, the climate was bad for them because of what happened in Grenada.

"They made the greatest mistake of their lives. Norman Manley wouldn't have backed away but Michael Manley is not Norman Manley. They never had the guts that we had in 1976 as we went through a test of fire and steel," he said.

Comparing the JLP's attitude to elections in 1976 during the State of Emergency, Mr. Seaga said it was the JLP who when called upon to fight an election in the most severe circumstances any Party had ever fought an election in the history of this country neither flinched nor back off. Up to June 1976 in that campaign the JLP was ahead, when Manley called the election because he realised that the Party could not be beaten any other way while three candidates were in detention including one of the deputy leaders while over 200 of its frontline members who were key people working in the election, he said.

"If ever there was a time when a Party should not have contested an election was in 1976 but we didn't back off. We knew that we wouldn't be able to win it under those circumstances but we decided that we would do it because for the sake of democracy, it was necessary for us to be in there and to fight that election."

NO PRINCIPLE FOR PNP IN '72

He said that the PNP had decided that they would not fight this election because the lists were three years old; however it was the same PNP that in 1972 fought a general election with a list three years old. There was no principle involved at that time, he noted as the reason why they fought it was that they figured they could win "and the reason why they wouldn't fight it in 1983 was that they knew they would get a beating."

The PNP realised that they would get a beating as they were not ready and the climate after Grenada was bad. "They were not ready because they had three years to prepare themselves and they still weren't ready. The business of an Opposition Party in our system of Government is to make itself ready for elections," he said.

Mr. Seaga told his cheering supporters that the PNP had three years with a leader travelling all over the world; three years quarrelling among themselves with difficulty deciding what they were but they would not admit it.

Mr. Seaga regretted that nearly 900,000 voters had not been allowed to vote because the PNP was too coward to come forward. History would be the JLP's judge. He urged voters in the constituency to go out and vote for Dr. Mavis Gilmour to show that they had taken the election seriously.

Other speakers at the rally were Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Rt. Hon. Hugh Lawson Shearer, Member of Parliament for West Rural St. Andrew, Dr. Mavis Gilmour, North Central St. Andrew Member of Parliament, the Hon. Douglas Vaz and Minister of State for Information, the Hon. Mike Henry.

'INCIDENTS' MAR ELECTION NOMINATIONS IN SOME AREAS

Attacks on Independents

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 30 Nov 83 p 12

[Text] Nomination Day in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew yesterday was not without its incidents.

Following are reporters' accounts of what happened in the Corporate Area, parts of Western Jamaica and some rural areas at some Nomination Centres:

St. Andrew Western

A man who arrived at the Edith Dalton James School, Duhaney Park, in the St. Andrew Western constituency yesterday, reportedly to be nominated for the December 15, General Election, was attacked by Jamaica Labour Party supporters, forcing the police to fire a shot and rushed the man from the scene in a police Land-Cruiser.

The man arrived about 10 minutes after nominations closed at 2 p.m. while scores of cheering, bell-ringing JLP supporters were marching down the road. The man, who was travelling in a blue taxi, was accosted a short distance from the school gate by the crowd which accused him of being "a PNP boy going to nominate". Grabbing onto the man, who had alighted from the taxi, the crowd hauled and pulled him, threatened him and shouted to him to "go away, we don't want you here."

A policeman tried to protect the man, about 30 years old and appearing calm and cool in the midst of the hostile mob. He went back toward the taxi but started again for the school gate.

The taxi driver then came under attack with the crowd, which hurled bottles and stones at his car, forcing him to reverse speedily under the hail of missiles.

By this time, the man the crowd claimed had been going to the Nomination Centre to be nominated had reached the school gate and was surrounded by an increasingly hostile and growing crowd of JLP supporters, some of whom claimed they knew him. Ignoring police warnings to leave the man alone,

the crowd tried to get at him through the human protective barrier the police began to form around him. A policeman fired a shot in the air as the situation appeared to be getting out of hand.

Several more policemen rushed to the man's assistance, placed him in a Land-Cruiser and sped away with him with the crowd beating on the side of the vehicle, cursing the man and threatening him with violence.

The GLEANER was unable to ascertain the man's name.

Earlier Mr. Earle Patrick Stephens, 49, businessman, was returned unopposed as the Member of Parliament for Western St. Andrew as nobody else was nominated to contest the December 15, General Election.

When nominations closed at 2 p.m. with no other person being nominated, Returning Officer Winston Jackson shook Mr. Stephens's hand and informed him that he was the MP for West St. Andrew.

Mr. Stephens told the GLEANER he felt it was a sort of let-down. "I'd have preferred a contest," he said, but the PNP had decided to boycott the elections.

St. Andrew North Central

Mr. Christopher Burrowes, aged 24, listing his occupation as a chemist, was the only would-be candidate in St. Andrew North Central who sought to run against Mr. Douglas Vaz, Minister of Industry and Commerce who held the seat in the Parliament that was dissolved on Monday.

He was however disqualified because of inconsistencies in his nomination sheet.

In one instance the tile with the names of the streets under the letter "G" was missing from Polling Division No. 16 with the result that the name of one of the voters listed on his Nomination Sheet could not be verified. In another instance the name of the officer of the Polling Division did not tally with that on his Nomination Sheet.

Mr. Burrowes, after being disqualified, objected strongly, almost tearfully to a request for his picture to be taken by a freelance photographer.

St. Andrew North Western

Disturbance and intimidation prevailed at the St. Andrew North Western Nomination Centre, St. Richard's Church Hall, Red Hills Road yesterday, where Independent candidate Clive Williams of the Christian Consciousness Movement, was prevented from handing in his nomination papers.

Mr. Williams, a businessman, on entering the premises was swarmed by boisterous JLP supporters, shouting that they did not want any other candidate to be nominated. He arrived around 1.20 p.m. in a silver grey Volvo,

along with his driver. He stopped for a moment near the porch, but appeared uncertain as to which was the entrance. He continued around the side of the building where he alighted from his car, but again he did not get the chance to enter because of the crowd blocking him and shouting at him. He had to jump back in his car and leave the scene. Before he left the right back tyre of his car was punctured.

The police moved in immediately the crowd accosted the man but their efforts were ineffective and re-enforcement had to be called for. This however did not arrive until 2.12 p.m., by when the crowd had dispersed and nomination had been closed. Mr. Karl Samuda was returned as the duly elected Member of Parliament for the area.

The strong JLP presence remained inside and outside the Nomination Centre throughout the period despite efforts of the police and the Returning Officer to control the crowd. The supporters were continuously mouthing party slogans, achievements of the government and reiterating their stand that no one else would be allowed to be nominated. They lined both sides of the street outside the centre, formed groups on the compound and kept up a continuous argument with the police who at times seemed quite despondent about the matter.

Mr. Samuda's arrival at the centre was heralded by bell-ringing, cheering crowd which was shouting "[word indistinct] ready". The crowd converged on the centre despite the efforts of the police to stop them at the gate. Nevertheless they came in the hall with the noise and surrounded the table at which the Returning Officer was working. Some were standing on chairs, sitting on the window ledge and pushing their way through, trying to get a glimpse of what was happening at the table.

After the nomination procedure was completed, Mr. Samuda got on top of a chair and started addressing his supporters. He spoke of some of the efforts made to improve the constituency and said that they had not achieved all that they had wanted, but they had achieved more than what the Peoples National Party had done during its term of office. He was stopped in his track by the Returning Officer who told him he had to go outside, an order which he obeyed immediately.

The supporters accompanied him outside where they continued with their shouting and defiance of the police orders. So determined were they not to leave the premises until 2 p.m., that some of them stood guard at the door, two young men on either side. The police would not have any of this and they were asked to leave. The youngsters replied that they were only protecting their candidate's nomination paper and that they did not want any one else to come in.

At times the crowd disrupted the flow of traffic. On the streets and inside the compound they kept shouting, "Nobody else is going in there, we are staying until 2 p.m." "Only one man can come in--Carlyle, nobody else."

Reports From Other Areas

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Nov 83 p 12

[Text] In St. Andrew East Central, the atmosphere at the Nomination Centre in the Holy Cross Church Hall yesterday, was calm. However, supporters of the single nominee, 47-year-old farmer, Col. Leslie Lloyd of the Jamaica Labour Party, chanted "Freedom", when a prospective candidate, Mr. Owen Tibby, a 42-year-old businessman of the Christian Conscience Movement, turned up with nomination papers around 1 p.m.

The nomination papers turned out to be incomplete, as the 10 electors who had nominated Mr. Tibby, could not be found on the electoral list.

Mr. Tibby left the nomination centre to secure the nomination of another 10 electors, but up to 2 p.m., the names of these could not all be located on the electoral list by the Returning Officer, Mr. L.S. Davis.

At 2 p.m. sharp, the supporters of Col. Lloyd, who at times pressed closely around Mr. Tibby, began cheering their candidate, who was the sole one nominated.

Outside in the yard, two of the tyres on Mr. Tibby's car were pierced by persons unknown, and, as a consequence, his departure from the centre was delayed.

With Col. Lloyd being the sole nominee, he was automatically elected to be Parliamentary representative of the constituency which, up to last weekend was represented by Dr. D.K. Duncan of the People's National Party.

If ever there was an award for bravery, the automatic choice for this on nomination day was 23-year-old Bobby Wilmot, businessman who tried to be nominated as a candidate for St. Andrew West Central thus opposing the JLP's Ferddie Yap.

St. Andrew West Central

The scene at the Calvary Prep School was one of calm as the Returning Officer along with the police waited on the arrival of the would-be contenders.

At 12.25 the first sign of life appeared on the scene as there was a ringing of bell at the entrance of the school but it was a false alarm as the bell belonged not to JLP supporters, but to the postman making a delivery next door.

The silence was broken at 1.10 p.m. by the sound of a drum corps mingled with the ringing of bells. This now was unmistakable--Ferddie Yap the JLP candidate for the seat was making his way to the nomination centre.

Proceeded by a sea of supporters which included his wife the Mayor of Kingston Colleen Yap, and two of their sons, the 48-year-old Ferdinand Yap

made his way to the nomination table, handed in his papers and was duly nominated.

At 1.40 p.m. the huge crowd started to buzz as a mild mannered 23-year-old man appeared and stated his intention of being nominated to run against Mr. Ferddie Yap.

With a flair, the man, Bobby Wilmot, presented his papers and calmly sat down despite to a barrage of heckling from JLP supporters. The returning officer then set about to certify his application.

This however proved a mammoth task as Mr. Wilmot while armed with the 10 names necessary did not know from which polling division the individuals came. After over 40 minutes of thorough checking only the names of nine of the 10 along with their polling division could be ascertained.

At this point the JLP supporters started shouting "2 o'clock gone a Ferddie alone." The bell ringing and heckling gathered momentum and Mr. Wilmot who seemed to be well known to the JLP supporters was urged by them to withdraw. As one lady put it, "Bobby withdraw, no man, not even your mother a go vote against Ferddie." [as published]

Mr. Wilmot who is from the Christian Consciousness Movement remained undaunted as the search continued to find the final name on his list. Just about everyone became involved--from the Mayor, to the police and members of Mr. Yap's party--trying desperately to locate the final name on his list.

At 2.40 p.m. when every effort was exhausted Mr. Wilmot was given two choices by the Returning Officer, first to withdraw or second, being disqualified on the ground that only nine of the ten names could be accounted for.

He chose the latter and while he was shaking hands with Mr. Ferdinand Yap, a JLP supporter shouted, "For God so loved Jamaica that he sent Eddie Seaga to be our leader and free us from what happen in Grenada." At this point the Returning Officer declared Mr. Ferdinand Yap winner of the St. Andrew West Central seat as he was unopposed.

In a quick chat Mr. Yap said he was disappointed at the PNP not contesting the election and that he had not got a chance to defeat anyone. "In the interest of the country and democracy," said Mr. Yap, "they (the PNP) should have contested the elections."

PNP-Police Talks

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Dec 83 p 18

[Text] A delegation from the People's National Party, led by party President, Mr. Michael Manley, met Police Commissioner Mr. Joe Williams on Wednesday morning at the Commissioner's offices at Old Hope Road, in Kingston to discuss the methods the PNP will use in conducting its campaign for fair elections.

According to a news release from the PNP, Mr. Manley, explained to the Commissioner of Police, in detail, the methods the party will use in conducting its campaign for fair elections and also the manner in which the movement will continue to protect and represent the interest of the people pending its return to Parliament.

Mr. Manley said that the Party's activities would be strictly within the law. He confirmed too that the Party would be requesting the full cooperation of the Security Forces in relation to public meetings and other mass activities. He also indicated that the Party's operations would be based on discipline and cooperation with the Police.

The Commissioner indicated full understanding of the important issues raised in the discussion and expressed appreciation for the Party's delegation sharing with him the Party's approach to these matters.

Associated with Mr. Manley at that meeting were General Secretary, Paul Robertson and Executive members Carlyle Dunkley and Alfred Rattray.

GLEANER Comment

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Dec 83 p 8

[Editorial: "Disappointing"]

[Text] While we are glad that nomination day proceedings passed off on Tuesday without any major disturbances, we were disappointed that in one or two cases independent candidates were prevented from handing in their papers by over-enthusiastic JLP supporters.

For example, in the North Western St. Andrew JLP constituency an independent was pounced upon by a crowd of JLP supporters and his papers taken from him and destroyed. This is thuggery and should be denounced by the party leader and his colleagues. For to rob a citizen of the right to present his papers is to destroy effectively the electoral system in that constituency. This was a bad scene and there should be a public apology made on this.

In the other instance in St. Catherine as we understand it, the independent had not completed his papers correctly and his nomination could not be accepted. Yet that was no reason why the enthusiastic supporters outside should have taken the incomplete papers from him and destroyed them. This is not the way to go about things. Enthusiasm can be understood, but thuggery cannot be excused.

CSO: 3298/278

WORKERS PARTY URGES PEOPLE'S COMMITTEES TO OPPOSE JLP

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 8 Dec 83 p 8

[Text] The General Secretary of the Workers Party of Jamaica, Dr. Trevor Munroe, has called for the establishment of broad-based People's Committees at the Polling Division, Divisional and Constituency levels as a means whereby the people can express their opposition to the present Jamaica Labour Party regime, says a WPJ release.

Dr. Munroe was speaking at a meeting of Party members and supporters in West Portland on December 4. The People's Committees, Dr. Munroe said, would contain representatives of the local churches, the women, senior citizens, the youth and all the political parties in their communities.

The committees would not only be a means for struggling against victimization in the distribution of work and other benefits; they would also prepare the people to resist the harsh economic pressures which are to come under the new IMF agreement; as well as hear proposals from the different political parties on how to ease the burden on the people.

Against this background, Dr. Munroe repeated the Workers Party demand for a simple unemployment tax on the profits of banks to employ 30,000 people; and the establishment of the right of recall whereby Members of Parliament and Councillors could be recalled by the people at any time before their term of office expired.

CSO: 3298/278

PSUM CC NOTES NEED TO ELIMINATE COMPARTMENTALIZED LEADERSHIP

Mexico City ASI ES in Spanish 11-17 Nov 83 pp 10-13

["Unabridged" Resolution approved by Second Plenum of Central Committee of Unified Socialist Party of Mexico; Mexico City, 4-6 November]

[Text] The Second National Congress of PSUM made an analysis of the political situation and outlined the two most important goals at the present time: to defeat the government's social and economic policy and to generate a democratization process. As the congress pointed out, the struggle for these two goals is part of the process of change in the correlation of forces that will pave the way for a popular, democratic, national, workers' alternative. It entails struggling from now on for a popular, democratic, new government.

The Second Plenum of the Central Committee evaluated the situation of our party, both in its social relations and its inclusion in Mexican society, as well as insofar as its internal problems are concerned, and it determined the concrete tasks that we must carry out during the coming months, for which purpose it issued the following resolution:

1. Despite the government's propagandistic claim of having brought the crisis under control, the fact is that the prospects of a widespread reactivation are not immediate; it is a fact that the recession will continue into 1984.

The reactivation of the United States' economy, which appears to be consolidating, has offered but little incentive for growth in Mexico's exportable production, because the Reagan administration has reinforced the protectionist measures. Under these conditions, it has been impossible to progress in the government's goal to create a strong exporting sector of non-petroleum products.

Domestic production is showing an imbalanced performance wherein, nevertheless, there predominates the continued decline in production in most branches of the manufacturing industry, as well as a plummeting in the production of staple grains in the rainy season growing areas. Hence, the government's claim of having the crisis under control is supported only by the performance of the economic indicators linked with public finances and the national monetary system which are based essentially on the deepening, of the crisis caused by the recessive policy being implemented by the government.

The continued drop in industrial production, as well as the sharp decline in the domestic market, have resulted in overt unemployment affecting nearly 3 million workers; which represents over 10 percent of the economically active Mexican population

As for inflation, the gross manipulation of the price indexes that the government has been practicing is by now public knowledge. It is claimed that, during September, the monthly rate of increase in prices was only 3.1 percent; it is also claimed that prices of staple products have increased substantially below the general index. The fact is that inflation continues to grow, and prices of staple products command prices up to twice those cited officially on the market; to which must be added the gross speculation carried out with them during recent weeks. Under these conditions, the most certain fact is that, at the close of this year, inflation will exceed the government's estimates.

In the economic relations with other countries, the nation's financial strangulation has become worse owing to the resumption of the flight of capital which, during the past 6 months, has reached a figure equivalent to 50 percent of imports; the increase in interest rates on the international market; the unfair terms imposed on Mexico in the renegotiation of the debt; and the persistent inability to increase manufactured exports. Under these conditions, the prospects for reactivation are even more remote, because there is a lack of the importing flexibility that this phenomenon would require.

Thus, the immediate prospect appears to be a basic continuity of the economic policy, because the government lacks the desire that would prompt it to change fundamental features of it, such as wages, public spending or financial policy. We have in sight a prospect of exacerbation in the social tensions that our party must prepare to orient and to link to the overall struggle against the government's social and economic policy. This becomes more practicable in view of the weakness in the government's leadership per se, which has begun to be criticized even by bourgeois sectors.

2. PSUM is a party under construction which has already succeeded in becoming a national political force. Owing to its relations with the country's working classes, the results of its electoral participation and the influence of its views on the national political scene, PSUM appears to be the broadest and most significant group in Mexico's socialist left. Nevertheless, our party's attachment to the working class and the labor movement is slight, and very far removed from addressing the current needs and the development of the democratic, revolutionary alternative that we have proposed. To overcome this unfavorable situation is an urgently needed task that necessitates the search for means capable of surmounting the obstacles which have thus far prevented the party's clearcut, overt participation in that leadership.

Generally speaking, it may be said that our party's progress among the working class is inextricably linked to the authentic, consistent democratization of the labor organizations, and to the workers' autonomous participation in all matters of concern to them. In the absence of this, democracy proves to be necessarily curtailed and insufficient.

Our party has advocated trade union democracy, interpreted as unlimited respect for the workers' decisions and for the internal activity of their organizations for struggle, simultaneously demanding the cessation of the unions' compulsory affiliation with any party, particularly the government party. PSUM also expresses its opposition to the measures adopted by business owners, in collusion with the labor authorities, to prevent the trade unionists' action, whether or not they are affiliated with democratic and revolutionary groups.

Even today, in many of the trade unions, the action of the workers who are members of PSUM and other political agencies has assumed a semilegal nature. PSUM is forcefully combating the attempt to divide the supposedly apolitical movement for grievances from the workers' political aspirations and demands, for the benefit of PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] and management, as well as the restrictions and limitations curtailing the left's activity in the trade union movement without any legal basis.

To eliminate this situation is an urgent requirement for the development and consolidation of PSUM. The legality of PSUM, interpreted as a right to electoral registration, not only does not negate, but forcefully demands the creation of new political spaces in which the workers themselves can find expression. Intensifying the political reform means expanding the area of trade union liberty and democracy.

3. One of the main features of the country's political situation is the growing dissatisfaction of the working population with the government's social and economic policy. But this feeling has not yet been converted into a widespread movement that would have a major influence on a change in the correlation of forces favoring the people. In the rural areas, action on a regional scale is increasing, an example of which is the march of the Chiapas Indians to Mexico City and the mobilizations of communal farmers and communities affiliated with the Riparian Pact. The workers are exerting pressure in their unions seeking a policy that will protect their jobs, wages and standard of living; but the official trade union bureaucracy is hampering their action. The popular urban movement is continuing to spread to new settlements. The most prominent feature of the urban and rural workers' resistance, which needs to be changed most urgently, is its dispersion, one of the reasons for which lies in the weakness of the left and the lack of coordination in its action.

The Central Committee is of the opinion that the demonstration of 4-18 January, called for by the National Popular Workers and Peasants Assembly, in which our party is a participant, demonstrated the potential for joint action by various leftist forces, and was a major reflection of the worker's growing spirit of struggle. The provocative action of some groups did not change the positive essence of the popular mobilization. At the same time, this event proved the urgent need for a greater common stand on tactics and program among the main leftist organizations.

The PSUM Second National Congress examined the difficulties obstructing the making of a broad alliance of leftist forces. The leading one is the heterogeneity of their political positions. In Mexico today, there is no democratic party with a popular base with which the revolutionary socialists could seek a lasting alliance based on democratizing goals. PPS [Popular Socialist Party] and PST [Socialist Workers Party], which have congressional participation, are

still supporting many of the government's actions and orientations. PPS even backed the PRI candidate for the presidency of the republic, and both refuse to join the opposition and uphold a line of struggle on behalf of political democracy. Among the left which has no congressional representation, the main agreements are still confined to the workers' economic demands and the struggle against repression; although it has recently begun converging around more general political proposals. The groups and individuals in the government realm expressing dissatisfaction and even criticizing basic features of the present government's social and economic policy are still rather undeveloped and often evade statements on behalf of an expansion of political democracy.

In fact, the main basis of PSUM's agreement with other political forces consists of criticism of the government's economic policy. Nevertheless, this agreement holds great significance and constitutes the most important means that PSUM has at present for spurring on the holding of joint or concerted action with forces of different political persuasions. Striving in this direction is a fundamental task for all the party's organizations.

The rumors that have been circulated to the effect that, at the PSUM's Second Congress, two opposing positions regarding the policy on alliances were vying with each other: one that favors alliances with the official party and the government, and another that supposedly gained the majority, confining the alliance to the leftist forces and the popular movement, are completely false. Our party's policy on alliances is a very important part of its tactics, and in its ranks there are no positions that would foster an alliance with the official party and the government. In this regard, the debate in PSUM is related to the methods of coordinating the action of the leftist opposition, the popular masses movement and the non-opposition sectors that criticize features of the government's policy. PSUM's political action has been determined by the conclusions from the Second Congress, to the effect that all forces should be concentrated on the struggle to defeat the government's social and economic policy, and to pave the way for a new process of political reform which entails primarily the development of a great opposition movement with a clearly democratic and popular alternative. Therefore, we emphasize the mass struggle itself, and constant effort to coordinate the action of the forces capable of giving an impetus to this task.

4. PSUM is a reflection of a long-standing effort to link the struggle for political democracy with socialism. This link is fundamental in nature. A socialism which, in its struggle against exploitation and for a new society, ignores the needs for political democracy on the part of the working class and all the workers, cannot be validly conceived. The old tradition of the Mexican left of limiting the struggle for democracy to strictly social areas, such as structural reforms, nationalizations and others, proved to be enormously biased in its time. PSUM has, since its formation, proclaimed that the struggle for democracy in all areas is a fundamental component of the workers' political action and that it has a revolutionary essence if it is conceived not only as a formal, representative democracy, but also and primarily as the workers' opportunity to influence the state's organs and the making of the fundamental decisions which affect the society as a whole.

At the present time, the most consistent and active force on behalf of the country's political democratization is PSUM. Nevertheless, this fact has not been sufficiently publicized and, at every step, we encounter difficulties in implementing the democratic struggle line that our party upholds. These difficulties consist mainly of a lack of consistency in the party itself, and in the dearth of vigilance to ensure that its everyday activity will place particular emphasis on the rejection of the antidemocratic methods which predominate in the society and the state.

PSUM's concept of democracy constitutes an element to develop the class consciousness of the working class and other workers. At the same time, the fact that there are in our country socialist forces that show a complete inconsistency with the struggle for democracy, and that the leading political groups currently lack well defined goals of political democracy, has caused the struggle for political rights and for a democratic system to meet with serious difficulties at present.

Currently enormous importance has also been assumed by the rise of the democratic struggles of workers, peasants and other sectors of the working people. PSUM's capacity to depict itself as a consistent democratic force is what could help those struggles become associated with socialist goals. This is one of the principal means of fulfilling the tasks decided upon by the Second Congress. And for this very reason, the present situation indicates that it is now far more practicable to achieve an organic, and not merely ideological merger of the democratic struggles with the socialist goals.

The foregoing does not in the least abrogate PSUM's orientation in the area of the policy on alliances, because preventing our party's isolation is one of the present terms for its development.

5. PSUM's slight organic development is one of the major limitations on progress in the course of the democratic struggle and the raising of class consciousness and the force of the workers' movement. Once again, the party issue is central in determining the democratic and socialist prospects.

The fact that PSUM is a party under construction necessitates the search for a profile of its own, not only from the standpoint of its main theoretical principles, but also from that of its forms of action and link with the society, especially the working class. PSUM is a national, democratic, socialist, revolutionary, workers' party. This definition implies a certain unmistakable class character: PSUM is struggling for a democratic power of the working class, for the abolishment of the private ownership of the means of production and for the formation of a new society based on work and on economic and political equality. The means of achieving that new power is the making of a socialist-type revolution, under the political and organizational leadership of the working class, with extensive popular participation. The struggle for political democracy is an essential task of PSUM, both in the present society and in the one to be built based on that new power. PSUM is a national force, not only because of its organizational achievements among the country's working classes as a whole, but primarily because it has taken the best traditions

of struggle from the Mexican people and from other rural and urban workers, with the general national interests, to contribute in this way to finding a new path for Mexico.

These positions are essential for confronting the needs of the present struggle. Nevertheless, we must state more concretely the forms of action and methods of struggle for the party, as well as its internal relations and structure. The forms and methods whereby the party must seek its link with the urban and rural workers entail an entire style of work.

At its recent Second National Congress, our party has resolved to intensify its opposition to the government's policy. This demands a group of elements: to raise the party's combativeness, to use its program to a greater extent and to develop its main alternative proposals, and to be active in the implementation of the party's decisions, in the mass struggles, in the party propaganda, and in the mobilizations in which the party and the social organizations participate.

The forms of struggle that the present reality offers us are essentially: strikes, mass mobilizations, elections, the occupation of urban and agricultural properties and congressional activity. These forms are used by the masses and are products of concrete realities. In addition, they are closely interconnected with one another, because the essence of the action both in the trade unions and the legislative chambers, town halls, and agrarian and popular groups is very similar.

Our party participates in the mass struggles, even in those the leadership of which differs with PSUM's policy. This should be one of the features of the entire party's work. We start with the premise that PSUM can develop provided it intervenes prominently in the workers' struggles. Its growth, the increase of its electoral strength, the development of its cadres and the heightening of its political and ideological influence depend on this. There must be zealous effort among the workers, at their work centers, to prompt them to adopt the essential aspects of the tactics decided on by the congress.

The party's participation in the mass struggles must have three main features: the implementation of PSUM's program and political line, the organized nature of its members' intervention through their agencies and the unifying, democratic position among the mass organizations and movements.

One of the major tasks of PSUM's members in the mass movement is to help raise the workers' and people's demands and claims to the level of conscious political struggle. In the current situation, many mass struggles are assuming a directly political nature in their own dynamics and as a result of the government's obstinacy; hence, in those instances, the task of the PSUM members is to create a consciousness among the masses of that type, without giving up the most immediate economic demands. PSUM's orientation endeavor consists largely of explaining the link between the isolated action and demands and the country's general political situation, as well as giving them a more enduring and lasting perspective, by forming or consolidating the organizations that the masses adopt in their struggle. This orientation effort can help enormously

to overcome the narrowness and trade union fraternalism that are often noted in the workers' struggles, which are a source of political opportunism and deviations of various types.

It is a matter of suitably combining the legitimate claim with the alternative approaches and the proposal of solutions that will afford continuity and intensification in the mass movements. Nevertheless, the party's combativeness should not be confined to words, or lead to action that is not in keeping with the current correlation of forces, or with the actual needs of the mass movement, its unity and its strength.

Among PSUM's forms of action and methods, great importance must be attached to the methods of action in the mass organizations and struggle. PSUM's members are obliged to act at all times in an organized, unified way; but this does not mean the party's segregation from the rest of the workers. We must use methods that will guarantee that PSUM members behave as leaders or members of the workers' organizations, fully committed to the democratic goals and resolutions of the rank and file, and as staunch fighters for socialism, at all times seeking to gain the workers' majority acceptance of PSUM's general line and concrete proposals. Our party does not make its support and participation in the workers' struggles contingent on the latter's full acceptance of its proposals. Based upon our bylaws, the party's members are obliged to abide by the democratic decisions of the social organizations to which they belong. This is a rule that all the other parties lack, and it clearly indicates the nature of the PSUM members' participation in the workers' social organizations.

One of the party's qualities should be its united position toward other democratic and leftist forces. PSUM is obliged to show the greatest political consistency in the struggle to approach and unite all the forces of the national left. This effort must be made by upholding PSUM's program and line, but at the same time seeking means that will allow for the permanent cooperation of various parties and groups which accept unity of action in principle. In this regard, we must use persuasion and a practical attitude that will make it possible to surmount the obstacles that often hamper the cooperation of various leftist forces. Our party is a member of the National Front for the Defense of the Wage and Against Austerity and Poverty, and it is engaged in a unifying policy therein. It is also seeking, and in some instances has achieved unity of action with other leftist groups. This is a clearcut orientation from our Second Congress.

The non-partisanism being cultivated among some segments of the left should continue to be combated, so that the gains made to date may be bolstered and developed.

6. The economic crisis that the country is undergoing is not only causing dissatisfaction among the workers and the moyenne and petite bourgeoisie, but is also promoting a redefinition of the basic political alignments; although this phenomenon has not developed completely. For example, the bourgeoisie are more inclined than ever to lend support to PAN [National Action Party], while some serious differences are occurring among the government-oriented

trade union bureaucracy. Small sectors of state employees have expressed their dissatisfaction with the economic policy, and the present government is showing greater hostility toward the trade union struggles and, generally, those of the masses led by leftist militants, particularly from PSUM.

The tendency toward a bipolarization between PRI and PAN, already evident in the 1982 elections, and recently in Chihuahua, Durango and Baja California, represents a real threat to the opportunities for developing a political democracy, because it creates a false dilemma and tends to put the socialist alternative on the sidelines.

At the same time, the left and PSUM have not thus far shown any great capacity for channeling the economic crisis and the popular discontent generated by the latter toward independent organization and struggle. PSUM has grown slowly, and in an imbalanced and often disorganized manner. There is a lack of coordination on the national level, which is reflected in the absence of general action by the party, despite the fact that the situation demands this and the masses' mood would allow it. Many relatively important activities are little known or even misrepresented, without learning the party's view in time. It may be claimed that in some respects we are lagging behind events owing to internal organizational difficulties or the lack of clearcut, timely proposals.

The situation described herein demands new, major efforts of PSUM to delineate forms of action and methods of struggle that will make it possible to depict the party as a group attractive to hundreds of thousands of Mexican workers who are already sympathizers with the left and with socialism. In this connection, unique significance is assumed by the manner in which PSUM carries out its political work, especially its activity in the social organizations, and the chambers and town halls and through propaganda.

It is particularly important to establish the clear contrast between the performance of the popular representatives who are members of PSUM and that of members of other parties. A new way of engaging in politics is what a large portion of the working people demand; people who, in some parties of the country, have recently backed PAN, seeking to overcome the government's corruption and the arrogance of the PRI politicians. Nevertheless, PSUM must create an awareness among the masses of the true nature of PAN's policy, and of the dependence and subordination of that party's policy to the most retrogressive and conservative interests in the country. PAN never has been, and never will be a real, popular, democratic alternative that would fulfill the aspirations or interests of the working people. To defeat PRI and to unmask PAN will be possible only with a program of struggle through the action of socialists.

PSUM's representatives must be typified by their strong link with any type of popular struggles and demands. Their salaries must be completely received by the party, and they must have the income that the party gives them, which must coincide with the wage of a semi-skilled worker. The popular representatives who are members of PSUM waive any personal privilege derived from the position they hold. All this should be extensively publicized among the population.

All the foregoing requires the closest bonds between the PSUM deputies, council members and municipal executives and the organic structure, particularly with the party's leadership organs.

To achieve a new way of engaging in politics, it is essential to define precisely the party's relations with the various state organs. PSUM must strive to apply a completely open policy, without deceptions or concealment, toward the government authorities and politicians from other parties, especially those from the official party.

PSUM must claim on all levels its nature as a political organization representing a segment of the society, acting in its behalf, and demanding of the authorities the solution to the working people's problems, demanding this of the party's electors in particular.

Unique importance has been assumed by the systematic publication of the accounts of the party's committees on all levels, so that it will be possible to ascertain, inside and outside the party, the origin and use of PSUM's economic resources.

7. The Central Committee has as a priority obligation that of prompting all the party's organizations to fulfill the resolutions of the Second National Congress. For this purpose, it is first necessary to organize a study of the Central Committee's report to the congress and of the resolutions passed by the latter. The political line approved by the congress represents progress in PSUM's development since its formation in November 1981.

Nevertheless, the congress also proved that the way in which the party has been led to date must be radically changed. This method is reflected in the disparity and lack of consistency in implementing the general line and everything inferred from the basic documents, which are the grounds for PSUM's existence. It became evident that there was a need to eliminate in a collective and conscious manner the compartmentalized type of leadership, wherein there still persist alignments and types of action that originate directly or indirectly in all the organizations that merged in November 1981.

Our Second Congress was a step forward, not only for the development of PSUM's political line, but also because it afforded a more clearcut realization that this type of leadership hampers the fulfillment of the unified goals that gave rise to PSUM.

The party's rank and file demand a leadership capable of acting with single methods, operating as a single agency and directing the entire party in a collective fashion, and not merely segments thereof, based upon its source and the origin of the Central Committee members. Differences, which have a place in our party and in its leadership organs, should by no means disqualify the Central Committee and the state committees, nor hamper the action of the members; but rather should be discussed and settled in the context of democratic relations and a party spirit based on the documents establishing PSUM and the collective endeavor.

Hence, from the Second Congress one infers the need for the members of the Central Committee and the state committees to participate fully in the tasks and discussions of their respective organs, and to adopt the organizational and political measures required to head the party as a whole, within the context of its political line, its statement of principles, its program and its bylaws. The Central Committee is the national leadership organ, and not a deliberative assembly that meets every 3 months.

All this entails the actual elimination of group types of action and of any type of sectarianism within the party and its leadership organization, as well as the development of internal democracy. It has been proven that the tendency toward internal grouping only generates antidemocracy in our ranks, because it excludes from the decision-making those who have no definite alignment of an internal nature, and puts the party at the mercy of the agreements made between various groups, particularly among the leading proponents of the latter.

Our principles and standards of organization do not accept the existence of factions within PSUM and stipulate the compulsory nature of the single leadership. These principles and standards must assume a practical validity, and the members of the Central Committee and the state organs must guarantee the complete observance thereof. The appearance of trends of opinion, within the context stipulated in PSUM's bylaws, has no reason to lead to the disintegration of its leadership organs or their actual inoperativeness, or to make the factional grouping possible.

The method of single leadership as a means of channeling the party's action is based not only on common general principles and goals, but also on the current political requirements and on the fact that PSUM has devised its political line with the participation of a large number of its members and all of its leaders. This line, devised by the Second Congress, constitutes a foundation for continued progress in the formation of PSUM as a consolidated and influential political party.

In this regard, it should also be noted that the members of the Central Committee and the state committees have been elected to lead the entire party, by means of democratic, collective procedures stipulated in its bylaws. Hence, they are not representatives of supposed sectors of the membership, but rather general leaders. Therefore, the conduct of these political cadres must adhere to the standards in the bylaws, to the PSUM political line and to the agreements of the national and local leadership organs, without precluding their right to maintain and uphold their own positions.

It is similarly important to note that the state committees are under the direction of the Central Committee, and that the latter has organs endowed with specific authority to ensure a coherent political and organizational endeavor on a national scale. This means that our party does not have a federated structure, as might appear under certain circumstances. Moreover, the functions of the Central Committee and its organs do not consist merely of drafting general political documents or making appeals, but rather of directing the entire

party and overseeing the implementation of its resolutions, and discussing and solving the party's problems and those stemming from the implementation of its political line. For this purpose, it is necessary that the Central Committee fully exercise its functions specified in the bylaws.

The Central Committee assigns the Political Commission to submit to the next plenum a program of discussions of the main issues to be debated in the party, including both matters relating to program and tactics that arise from the current political situation and theoretical and organizational problems, including those regarding the concept of the party and its particular features. The Central Committee will undertake these discussions while at the same time focusing its attention on the development of the mass movement, the party's tactics and its construction.

8. At the decision of the Second Congress, PSUM will be required to hold a Conference on Organization. The Central Committee is of the opinion that this conference should be preceded by an extensive debate among the rank and file and all the leadership organs, concerning the problems of the party's growth, the operation of the rank and file agencies and intermediate committees, and the national leadership itself.

The party is not applying a single policy on growth. Each party committee is applying its own. As a result of this situation, the growth and social composition of PSUM have been taking shape in an almost spontaneous manner. In addition, there are new situations present today, such as the entry of Indian communities, which require a thorough discussion by the Central Committee and the Conference on Organization itself. The membership of PSUM, the activity of the rank and file agencies, their relations with the local leadership organs and among the latter and the national leadership, based upon the bylaws, have not been discussed in a general manner in the party to date. All this urgently requires the devising and implementation of a policy on organization which, taking the various experiences, comparing them and analyzing PSUM's organic situation, will become a guide for all the party's members and committees.

The construction of a party of working class masses unquestionably demands the development of political leadership cadres. This issue must also be included in the discussions of the National Conference on Organization. Prior to the conference, the Central Committee will prepare the discussion materials that will serve to guarantee the preparations for that meeting.

Despite the foregoing, we must emphasize now, that PSUM has an organizational structure inferred from its bylaws and from the resolutions of the Sixth Plenum of the Central Committee elected at the First National Congress and approved in their entirety by the Second National Congress. On the basis of our standards specified in the bylaws and the aforementioned resolutions, it is possible to progress at present in the area of organization and to plan for the next conference.

It must also be pointed out that the aforementioned resolution of the Central Committee's Sixth Plenum is not only completely in effect insofar as its

content is concerned, but also has not been applied by the party committees, and the Central Committee elected at the First Congress did not make an effort to guarantee its fulfillment. The party's current situation, particularly since the experiences of the recent congress, demands the stringent implementation of the bylaws and the resolutions from the Sixth Plenum.

The methods for internal relations in the party have assumed particular importance at present. It has already been proven that the method of persuasion and convincing is the one that can ensure the surmounting of the party's internal problems. There are currently state committees whose members do not act as members of the same leadership organ and who do not discuss the political problems. Among the national leaders there does not exist the level of party discussion that would be desirable, considering the party's situation. All this requires that the method of discussion among comrades in the struggle be enforced definitively, eliminating misrepresentations and arbitrary interpretations of the arguments of some leaders or others. There must also be an elimination of discussions that are not based on any exchange of ideas on the party's levels. As stated in the resolution of the Sixth Plenum of the Central Committee elected at the First Congress, there must be an attempt to exhaust the discussions within the party, in its press, before continuing them in informational organs dissociated from PSUM. All this also implies the expression of views inside the party, without restraints of any kind; because in that way it will be possible to exhaust the discussions.

9. The Central Committee assigns the Political Commission to ensure the normal, unified operation of the state committees which were the object of attention at the Second Congress, based on adherence to the standards in the bylaws and the use of the discussion method.

In connection with the party's organization in the state of Sonora, the Central Committee's Second Plenum has agreed upon a special resolution.

10. This year, municipal elections have taken place in eight states of the republic. At present, election campaigns are under way for the same purpose in seven other states.

The Central Committee has noted the considerable delay by the party in this aspect of its election activity, and the urgent need to deal with it more decisively, inasmuch as it represents an area conducive to the deployment of its political line and to the strengthening and development of the municipal and rank and file agencies. In particular, there is a need to raise the work of the national leadership and the backing of the Central Committee's organs to the level of the election campaigns that are under way, and to make a detailed plan of those that will be taking place next year.

The Central Committee's Second Plenum has resolved to make the municipal campaigns a factor for growth in the party and a raising of its political influence to a national scale. The Central Committee organs must start correcting the omissions and failings that the party's work shows in this respect, and set up a definite backing for the municipal campaigns, concentrating human and financial political resources on them. The struggle to win

elections in a large number of municipalities is a task on which it is necessary to concentrate the attention of the party's national leadership, the Central Committee organs and those of the state committees; considering this task one of the factors to spur on the process of democratizing the country's political life.

11. The PSUM Central Committee is of the opinion that the United States' military intervention in Grenada constitutes an unspeakable aggression against the sovereignty of that Caribbean state, a provocation against socialist Cuba, united by solidarity with the Grenadian people, and a flagrant violation of the most fundamental rules of international law.

The militarist escalation has now reached an alarming climax; the Reagan government is continuing to prepare overtly for aggression against Nicaragua. This fact is currently the continent's major concern.

We are aware of the consequences for Mexico that a widespread war in Central America such as the one being planned by the United States imperialists would hold. In view of this fact, solidarity with the struggles in Central America and the Caribbean is PSUM's prime internationalist obligation. We shall not spare any efforts in that direction. Everything that we can do we shall do; we shall pool efforts, without any exclusions, in order to back all the political initiatives, both national and international, that would contribute to peace in Central America and the Caribbean.

It is time for popular mobilization, for solidarity with the Grenadian people, for the defense of Nicaragua and Cuba, for support to the Salvadoran rebels and for curbing the repression and genocide in Guatemala.

The Central Committee calls upon all members of PSUM to make as a priority in their activities active, combatant solidarity with the peoples of Central America and the Caribbean who are struggling for their liberation, with the Nicaraguan revolution and with socialist Cuba.

12. For the purpose of immediately implementing the Second Congress resolutions, the Central Committee has resolved to call the party to an extensive national mobilization demonstration against the government's social and economic policy, for the country's democratization and against the United States' escalating interventionism in Central America and the Caribbean, which represents a direct threat against our own sovereignty.

The holding of this demonstration, the preparations for which will start immediately, will culminate in a national mobilization during February 1984. This political initiative of our party should help to increase and expand the workers', peasants' and peoples response to the crisis, enhancing their cooperation and their political level, as well as the party's organization and influence on the mass movement. It also represents a concrete way of backing the resolutions of the National Worker, Peasant and Popular Assembly.

The activities that are undertaken in the context of this national demonstration will be associated with the need to concentrate all the efforts of the members acting in the social movements to fulfill the following goals:

I. The struggle for the defense of the rural and urban workers' income, including wage increases, particularly in the minimum legal wage; and real increases in the guarantee prices in rural areas, and measures against poverty and unemployment and to meet the basic needs of the majority of the population.

II. The struggle to democratize social and political life, especially in the municipalities; for social control over the allocation of resources and the use of public spending, as well as an impetus for legal proposals that would contribute to a new political reform. Solidarity with SUTIN [Sole Trade Union of Nuclear Industry Workers] and with Local 22 of SNTE [National Trade Union of Education Workers] in Oaxaca; and for the release of the political prisoners and the appearance of the missing persons.

III. Solidarity with the peoples of Central America and the Caribbean.

The Central Committee plenum is of the opinion that mobilization based on these three main problems requires the maximum deployment of PSUM among the trade unions, on the communal farms and in the agrarian communities, in the popular urban movements, in the legislative organs, in the press and in all public action involving propaganda, dissemination and analysis that can be used; for which purpose it has become essential to reactivate the internal life of all the party's agencies.

For this purpose, the Central Committee has resolved to promote the following tasks:

a. To hold local functions (municipal, by delegations or in districts, and for specific sectors of workers) in order to engage in agitation and propaganda concerning the country's situation and PSUM's policy.

b. To promote mobilizations throughout the entire country, during November and December, to demand of the government a policy of public spending geared to the people's interests, an increase in the legal minimum wage by a percentage that will at least replace the loss in purchasing power caused by inflation, against the high cost of living, and for a moratorium on payment of the foreign debt.

c. During February, to hold a main ceremony, in the Federal District, and in the leading cities of the republic, to culminate the national campaign in defense of the workers' income, with the most extensive participation by the social organizations.

d. To organize forums for discussing the wage policy and guarantee prices, during November and December.

e. To deploy a campaign of solidarity with Grenada, Nicaragua and El Salvador in the context of the broadest anti-imperialist and anti-interventionist

platform, from the standpoint of participating in coordinated fashion with other political forces in all the functions scheduled for November and December.

During the course of the national demonstration, PSUM will carry out an extensive membership campaign, with special emphasis on industrial workers, in order to intensify the party's growth.

The Central Committee has resolved to support the submission of our legal proposals regarding the policy on minimum income for workers, the Tenancy Law, the reforms to LFOPPE [Federal Law on Political Organizations and Electoral Processes] and our congressional group's proposals concerning the laws on income and public spending. It has also resolved to sponsor a meeting on the democratization of municipalities and a forum on the policy on public spending, during December, as well as the participation of PSUM's deputies in a campaign on behalf of reforms in the Federal District government.

In order to achieve the most extensive mobilization for this demonstration, PSUM will promote the holding of a multiparty meeting of leftist forces to sponsor a common program and plan of action against the crisis, inviting organizations that are interested in this initiative.

The Central Committee has also decided on PSUM's active participation in the forthcoming activities for unity that have been arranged jointly by the political and social organizations comprising the National Worker, Peasant and Popular Assembly. In the light of experience, confirming its original position, PSUM declares that the forthcoming demonstrations, including the one scheduled for March 1984, are to be called a "National Demonstration of Struggle," maintaining in the planning and holding thereof a respect for the autonomy of the participating organizations, a search for consensus as a basis for more extensive participation and the right of each organization to voice its own demands along with the common ones.

The Central Committee calls upon all members and agencies of the party to expend the greatest effort possible for the successful completion of all these tasks.

Second Plenum of the PSUM Central Committee, 4-6 November 1983

2909

CSO: 3248/276

URBAN GROUP SEIZES TRUCKS, GIVES AWAY MILK

PA050420 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15 Dec 83 p 38-A

[Excerpt] Chihuahua, Chihuahua, 14 Dec--Members of the Urban Popular Movement seized five trucks loaded with 13,000 liters of milk and distributed the product among the neighborhoods skirting this city.

The local pasteurizing plant suspended milk distribution for fear that other trucks may be seized. The president of the Milk Producers Union, Salvador Garcia, said that 75,000 liters of milk had been frozen to prevent their being stolen.

Dairy proprietors denounced the theft of their vehicles and merchandise before the state attorney general's preliminary investigations department.

The stolen milk was distributed in the Campesina, Cerro de la Cruz, PRI, San Martin, La Reforma, Puerto Rico, San Jorge, Division del Norte, Desarrollo Urbano, and Unidad Proletaria neighborhoods.

CSO: 3248/289

GOVERNMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO MIXED ECONOMY

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 23 Nov 83 p 2

[Text] (ANN Special)--The basic principles of the revolution--nonalignment in foreign policy and political pluralism and the mixed economy domestically--remain firm in spite of the difficult conditions Nicaragua faces, according to Sergio Ramirez Mercado, a member of the government junta, a few days ago.

Economically, emphasis remains on the strategic areas of productive investment, infrastructure, energy, agriculture and agroindustry along with attention to the needs derived from the emergency situation.

These measures are focused on guaranteeing the production and distribution of basic supplies to the people, with strict price controls on perishable products as well as on the 16 basic consumer goods that the government guarantees through subsidies.

Since the people feel some concern facing the prospect of more penetrating aggression, there has been a fair amount of domestic hoarding. However, that phenomenon has not gotten out of hand, according to official reports.

At the same time, there is work on formulating the 1984 economic plan through the Economic Council based on preexisting planning criteria.

In 1983 priority has also been given to the employment problem. This situation was better than in 1982, according to Ramirez Mercado. About 3,400 jobs were lost and 1,500 recovered in the industrial area and there was a greater demand for skilled labor in construction and tobacco production, among other sectors.

Inflation has become obvious in two senses: inflationary growth was higher for the products on the open market; and it was higher territorially with a rate of 25 to 28 percent in Managua and a much lower rate in the interior of the country.

The increase in prices has not been excessive, according to Ramirez. He added that there are more or less stable distribution mechanisms to take care of the population in the different regions in the interior of the country.

and the local government also plans to improve small and medium business by regulating them more effectively; the state continues a policy of association with them. There will be greater control over wholesale trade where there is speculation, hoarding and excessive profits by the large businessmen.

As to monetary reserves and sources of foreign financing, the member of the government Junta explained: "We cannot finance all our accounts abroad." This situation is aggravated by the foreign debt service, the need to allocate part of the liquid reserves to imports and the difficulties in obtaining foreign financing. This last is part of the general policy of aggression by the United States against our country. It includes freezing credits and cutting preferential prices for agricultural exports.

Concerning the situation of the industrial sector, 60 percent is still privately owned; this is concentrated in agricultural-livestock production. Medium and large private ownership control more than 50 percent of the rice production and half of the sugar production.

Private investment continues to be high in livestock and has state backing through state financing.

Small cooperative production and small private production have the direct support of the government through programs of rural credit and technical support for private cooperative production.

GRAIN SILOS COST OVER 400 MILLION CORDOBAS

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 Dec 83 p 8

[Text] The revolutionary government is constructing five Regional Agricultural Depots at a cost of 401,018,000 cordobas.

The largest is being constructed in Los Brasiles (Managua) at a cost of 133.6 million cordobas. It has the capacity to store 1,087,000 quintals of basic grains in 20 silos, plus 8,300 tons in warehouses.

These reports were provided yesterday by engineer Rodolfo Blandon, director of the MASA [Improvement and Expansion of Storage Systems] Project that MICOIN [Ministry of Domestic Trade] is developing.

The first Regional Agricultural Depots to be constructed are those being completed in Masaya and Santo Tomas, Chontales. The one in Masaya, called Cdte Camilo Ortega MASA I, has the capacity to store 326,100 quintals. The one in Chontales will be able to store 163,000 quintals. The total cost of the two is 101 million cordobas.

These two are called MASA I. Financing was received from the Central American Bank of Economic Integration and the revolutionary government to construct them.

Terminal Agricultural Depot

The one in Los Brasiles, 15 kilometers west of Managua, is called the Terminal Agricultural Depot because it will be used to store the Managua harvest and what is imported or held for exportation, according to engineer Blandon.

The other two Regional Agricultural Depots are being constructed in Jinotepe and Rio Grande, Leon. The latter will even have a rice mill and a boiler that will operate with rice by-products.

These are known as MASA IV. MASA II is still under study. It will be used for storage in the rural zones, according to the MICOIN reports.

At the majority of the depots, the grains will be received, cleaned, dried, stored and also distributed to sites based on the plans of the revolutionary government and MICOIN.

Engineer Blandon noted that the Los Brasiles Depot will have similar functions to the ENABAS [National Enterprise for Staple Foods] warehouse.

There will be electromechanical equipment in all of them to carry out the entire drying and storage process. Blandon revealed that there will be different technologies in the depots originating from the countries that are supplying the financing. For example, there will be French technology at Los Brasiles which is the largest depot.

There are dozens of workers in Los Brasiles constructing circular bases on which they will erect the 20 silos to store corn, beans, rice and sorghum.

According to the plans, this depot will be finished by September 1984. The Masaya and Chontales depots are about to be inaugurated.

The Masaya depot can store the production equivalent of an area of 240 square kilometers, according to engineer Rodolfo Blandon.

7717

CSO: 3248/250

ENERGY MINISTER REPORTS ON FUEL CONSERVATION, SABOTAGE

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 Dec 83 p 4

[Text] The country saved almost 19 million cordobas in fuel alone during the month of November, according to comrade Emilio Rappaccioli, minister-director of the INE [Nicaraguan Institute of Energy], when he reported yesterday to the full Council of State. He added that the estimated savings in use of electrical energy is more than 2 million cordobas.

These are the result of energy conservation measures in the country after the decree issued by the government junta last October.

Minister Rappaccioli explained what the INE is and its future projects. He also reported to the People's Parliament on the damage caused to INE installations by counterrevolutionary actions. In financial terms, this cost 15 million cordobas in energy not sold to Honduras through the interconnected system, the wages and daily expenses for the workers of that institution and the cost of materials for repairs.

He also indicated that the INE has a General Operating Plan that includes different options in case of war so that electrical service is guaranteed to consumers.

Monthly consumption of gasoline has dropped about 10 percent and consumption of diesel about 4 percent. These percentages are equivalent to 300,000 gallons and 150,000 gallons, respectively, according to comrade Emilio Rappaccioli, minister-director of the INE, at the Council of State yesterday.

Since the cost per gallon of gasoline--only one type--is about 49 cordobas and diesel costs about 26 cordobas, 25 centavos, this means a savings of more than 18 million cordobas.

Rappaccioli explained that the decree by the government junta has had an effect on the consumption of electrical energy. There was a decline compared to the month of October.

The reduction varies between 3 percent and 7 percent on weekdays although the greatest reduction in consumption occurs on Saturdays because of the suspension of activities in state institutions, private industries and those in the People's Ownership Sector.

As of 23 November, there was a savings of 3.69 million kilowatt-hours which means a savings of a little more than 7,000 barrels of bunker at a cost of more than 2 million cordobas.

Sabotage Costs

The minister of the INE also noted the damage caused by counterrevolutionary sabotage in the energy sector.

This totals more than 15 million cordobas. Energy not sold to the neighboring country in the north (Honduras) represents about 11 million cordobas of this and 2.5 million were for the increase in the generation costs for energy to replace what could not be bought from Costa Rica due to the destruction of two towers in southern Nicaragua, part of the interconnected system between Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Honduras.

Discussing the damage caused in each region of the country, he said that in Las Segovias alone from January to October of this year, there were 31 incidents of sabotage, 12 in Region II (Occidente). He said that Planta Nicaragua (Tizcuco) was attacked by enemy aircraft which fortunately did not cause any damage. The same is true about the Patricio Arguello Geothermal Plant.

In the hydrocarbons (fuel) sector, he indicated that the counterrevolutionary action against Benjamin Zeledon port (on the Atlantic Coast) alone caused expenditures of about \$1 million (10 million cordobas).

The damage to Sandino port (destruction of buoys and pipes for unloading crude oil) totals more than \$300,000 (3 million cordobas). In Corinto the loss of fuel cost 10 million cordobas and material damage totaled 20 million cordobas.

In Case of War

As to civil defense, Rappaccioli indicated that different options are planned in case of war so that consumers would be supplied through the National Interconnected System or individually.

Also defense measures to protect the workers and equipment are being planned. Rappaccioli reported that they are working on a restructured organization to take care of maintenance and repair of the installations of the system in a decentralized way and a plan to guarantee fuel for defense and production in the country in wartime.

7717

CSO: 3248/250

ALIBUX ADVOCATES NONINTERVENTION, SELF-DETERMINATION

Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 18 Nov 83 pp1,2

[Speech by Prime Minister Errol Alibux at OAS General Assembly, Washington, D.C., 15 November; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to congratulate you with your election as chairman of this assembly. Let me assure you of our confidence in your leadership, which is guaranteed by your generally recognized qualities.

The 13th general assembly convenes at a point in time, when we are confronted within the Inter-American relations with many difficulties, such as the serious economic and financial crisis.

Although our organization was already founded almost a century ago, in order to stimulate regional harmony in, and preconditions for development for the American countries, at this moment our continent appears to be far removed from the goals referred to in the founding principles.

Today, we are not a continent of hope and an example to the world. It looks more like a continent where prosperity has merely [as published] been distributed among the states, and where harmonious cooperation for common interests turns out to be impossible.

Today, we witness how the Inter-American solidarity, one of the most important goals of our organization, is being undermined by our weak and hesitant approach to foreign interests, which threaten the regional interests. In this respect, we can point at the still open wounds of the Malvina crisis, and we can do nothing else but draw parallels with the problems which were caused by the incessant attempts of The Netherlands to interfere in the domestic problems of the Republic of Suriname.

/Fragile Unity Is Being Corrupted/

And today, Mr Chairman, the fairly fragile unity and solidarity among our peoples is being corrupted, since within our region, the principles of self-determination, noninterference, and non-intervention are being violated continuously and in several ways.

Mr Chairman,

The economic and financial problems within our hemisphere seem to have grown into almost insurmountable obstacles in the development processes of most of our countries. The victims in our region of these years of global recession are well known: a decrease of 10 percent in the per capita income of the region, a decrease of 40 percent in the terms of trade of the region, a deficit of 119 billion dollars in total, increasing unemployment, and a gigantic debt burden.

The burdens [as published] which provide loans and the countries with debts must at least reach agreement, if the disturbance of world peace is to be prevented. As the causes of the underlying crisis have been sufficiently analyzed, it appears to be superfluous to go into this once more.

It must be clear that imposing more limitations on the developing countries will not at all contribute to overcoming this crisis, on the contrary, such actions would seriously harm economic growth, and as a result, the social coherence of the Americans.

Considering the fact that [as published] actions which are being undertaken by more prosperous countries (trade limitations, disproportionately high interest rates), and when we take into consideration what profits the banks get from their loans, one tends to think that it is more than just to hope that a solution could be found by means of reasonable agreements between the richer countries and the countries with debts.

Mr Chairman, there is much at stake, and such a settlement should have been made already long ago. Fortunately, amidst the gloom in the picture we have painted, there is a gleam of light, because of the start of the dialogue by the Latin American and the Caribbean nations.

/SELA and ECLA/

At the invitation of the president of Ecuador, his excellency Osvaldo Hurtado, the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) produced a very significant report on this subject. It was followed in August of this year by a meeting in Santo Domingo, a special CIES [Inter-American Economic and Social Council] meeting of ministers of Finance in Caracas in September, during which a very important document was agreed upon concerning the relationship between the United States and the other members of our organization. Furthermore, in October, there was a CIES meeting in Asuncion, and now we are looking forward to a summit meeting in Quito, which has been planned for next January.

We were delighted to note that the U.S. government had wisely decided to participate in the CIES meeting in Caracas. It was the first step in a necessary line of dialogue in our hemisphere. These meetings led to the inevitable conclusion, that we are much to blame for our desperate situation.

/No Effective Cooperation/

We have always spent much time on talking about cooperation, but we have done little about achieving it. The idea of an alliance for development, the idea of a common market for the Americas have gone up in smoke. The Latin American and Caribbean forms of cooperation have in general not taken on the form of concrete, efficient institutions. To date, there has not been effective cooperation between SELA and ECLA on the one side, and the OAS on the other side. Within the OAS, we have been talking for a considerable time about convening a special general assembly about cooperation in our development.

The existing institutions, our own organization included, have been further weakened, however, by endless, irrelevant discussions. It is, therefore, a great pity that a high political organ such as the permanent council does not appear to be able to conduct fruitful talks on relevant subjects, and continuously wastes time on unimportant subjects. As a result of this, this council is hardly able to occupy itself with burning issues, such as the situation in Central America and the recent events on Grenada.

Mr. Chairman, my country sincerely hopes that the crisis which we now experience, and which taxes the political-social structure of our nations to the utmost, results in the political will to combine our forces.

We hope that the coming meetings of our representatives concerning this crisis will lead to an effective, enduring cooperation between our states.

/Support Contadora Group/

My government has attentively followed the activities of the Contadora Group. The great efforts of the presidents of Columbia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela require our complete support: a peaceful solution to the traffic conflicts in Central America is more than a cornerstone for lasting harmony in the region. Although we give our unequivocal support to the recent proposals of the Contadora Group, we still want to strike a warning note. However reasonable these proposals appear to be, they will not be effective -- and the same goes for any other proposal -- as long as the parties involved do not unconditionally respect and observe the principles of noninterference, nonintervention and self-determination.

/Development in Suriname/

In the past years, my country has been guided by these principles, allow me, therefore, to dwell briefly on the developments in the Republic of Suriname in order to clarify this point. Almost four years ago, we began the reform of a society, corrupt through and through -- a society which had failed miserably in providing for even the most elementary needs of the majority of our people -- a society, moreover, Mr. Chairman, in which the structure for effective control of the government by the people has [as published] degenerated to a mockery of democracy. We have tried to create a new society, in which the interests of the entire people could be effectively realized by a new, true democracy.

We now know how much such a task demands of us, and how many obstacles we have to overcome on the road which ultimately leads to success, because in the process of achieving this, and for this we need not be ashamed, mistakes also have been made -- but we have learned from those.

And by trial and error we are creating the conditions for the reconstruction of our society, in which we can satisfy the needs of our people, and simultaneously can test all the principles of our organization.

That no doubt will be an encouragement to those, who already at an early date showed understanding for our goals and principles, and who continue to support us on the basis of thoroughly recognized relationships. But at the same time, we hope that our development will cause a change in those, who have continuously attempted to meddle in the internal affairs of others, and who in doing this did not pay heed to the principles of our organization. We hope sincerely, that every attempt to obstruct a nation in solving its problems, and in pursuing its aspirations at its own discretion, will in the long run always remain fruitless, whatever the short-term consequences may be.

/Shocked/

Against this background, Mr Chairman, it will be understood how deeply we were shocked by the recent events on Grenada, whatever the reasons are which have led to an armed intervention in this member state of our organization. The event raises a serious question, to what extent the sacred principles of the OAS are still viable as pillars of our regional system.

Should we be forced to draw the conclusion that we have actually abandoned these principles, we should wonder seriously what will be the final result of our present crisis.

We are not the only ones who have raised this question: the reaction of the vast majority of the American countries have made it very clear, that most of us experience the sensation of having suffered a loss, and that we also feel insecure. And we wonder what can happen in the near or far future to our national sovereignty, and even to our existence.

/Sovereign right/

Whatever frictions always have existed between the states on our continent, and which will ever be an obstacle to achieving regional unity and solidarity, one certainty has always guided the founders of the Inter-American system: the certainty which was the result of hard-fought and extensive experience in our attempts to live together harmoniously and peacefully, in an attempt to achieve a modus vivendi between our states, in the attempts to set up a regional system.

From this, it became clear that we can only achieve practical results if we abstain from any violation of the sovereign right of every nation to develop

its own national system in a way which does not constitute an infringement of the sovereign right of other nations.

/Principle of Nonintervention/

I want to ask you, Mr Chairman, what will be the destination of our national states, if these norms are replaced by a doctrine which allows powerful countries to act according to what they consider their sphere of influence. The answer to these questions, Mr Chairman, will determine whether the nations of this continent will be able to live together peacefully and harmoniously, or whether distrust will prevail.

As I already said earlier, the American states are being confronted with many problems, of which the economic crisis has taken on enormous dimensions. A long-term solution to this will require great intelligence, and also unselfish and consistent efforts. It will in particular require political will. In order to reduce and ultimately to eliminate everything which has kept us divided in the past, we must lay a solid foundation for mutual trust in an atmosphere in which there exists greater political harmony.

Still, Mr. Chairman, there is not a single way to achieve harmony as long as we, as American states, feel threatened in our national existence.

For these reasons, the government of Suriname will, as long as it is able to do so, always be a vigorous proponent of the principles of nonintervention, self-determination, and noninterference -- the principles on which our Inter-American system is based and which are engraved in the charter of our organization.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(National Information Service)

12568

CSO: 3214/9

ANDRES PEREZ DISCUSSES RELATIONSHIP WITH MANAGUA, HAVANA

Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 1 Nov 83 p 4

[Article by Carlos Alberto Montaner]

[Text] "Then I said to Castro: 'You are a pawn of Moscow. And he answered: No, Carlos Andres, a victim.'"

"I do believe they (the Sandinist commanders) are Marxist-Leninists...or are heading in that direction... They think they are the Davids of the 20th century."

"Castro knows that if a revolt is unleashed (in Central America) it would not be strange for the United States to decide it by putting an end to the situation in Cuba..."

"Felipe Gonzalez, on account of Ethiopia, told Castro: 'We in Europe think that you are the weapons arm of the Soviet Union.'"

When Carlos Andres Perez was president of Venezuela, his country assumed a role of regional power for the purpose of upstaging Cuba in the Caribbean basin, and of taking the limelight from Fidel Castro himself as "patron" of radical groups. Carlos Andres--in America he is rarely called "Perez"--granted low-interest credits, sent aid missions to the West Indian islands and even contributed decisively to the overthrow of Somoza, when the fall of the dictator seemed inevitable and Havana loomed on the horizon as the sole beneficiary.

Now that he is out of office, with the legitimacy that his past and his position as vice president of the Socialist International give him, he continues to pursue the same objective in Central America--restrain the communists and contain Fidel Castro--but differs substantially from Washington in the way he achieves it. "The big mistake of the United States is their resolutely paternalistic approach in wishing to manipulate us and never listen to our ideas, but in always wanting to solve Latin American conflicts their own way." IF C.A.F. had been in the Miraflores [Presidential] Palace, maybe the Cuban presence in Nicaragua would have the Venezuelan contingents as rivals: "I would have sent physicians and teachers to dilute the strength and vigor of radicalism."

In any case it would not have been easy, because the Venezuelan ex-president recognizes that in the 9 Sandinist commanders there is a definite totalitarian component: "I do believe that they are Marxist-Leninists." And then his speech became tinged with melancholy: "Or at least heading in that direction." Managua's double play does not fool him, and he recognizes with fair disillusionment, "There is still not a communist government but it is not democratic or pluralistic either... there is private property, but it is absolutely constrained by the government... there are political parties, but they can only speak in private... there is the newspaper LA PRENSA, but it is subject to total censorship."

There is not the slightest naivete in the diagnosis of Carlos Andres Perez. He knows perfectly what is taking place in Managua and he is not unaware of the Soviet presence in the isthmus or the perturbing will of the 9 commanders, who are capable of continuing to supply the guerrillas, or training ETA terrorists, even at the risk of endangering the existence of their own revolution: "Among these guerrilla sectors an enormous solidarity has been unleashed. They have fought and traveled together, and they will never leave their friends in El Salvador out in the cold."

"They are even less flexible than the Cubans themselves, for there are signs that Castro would like the pacification of El Salvador so as not to be involved in a very dangerous situation."

"Castro understands that the United States would not be prepared to tolerate a communist government in the continental territory of Latin America. Castro knows that if a conflagration is unleashed it would not be strange for the United States to decide to put an end to the situation in Cuba. And he also knows that the Soviet Union would not declare war on account of Cuba and that he would be sacrificed."

"What degree of probability does this evolution of the conflict have?"

"A good deal. This is why Castro wishes to negotiate the situation in Latin America. The USSR cannot sponsor or sustain a situation in Central America similar to that of Cuba. The problem is that the Nicaraguans think they are the Davids of the 20th century."

Castro and Felipe Gonzalez

Carlos Andres has a thorough knowledge of the relationship between Castro and the Soviets. At one time he was witness to a revealing anecdote. In the only long talk the two leaders have held, which took place in Managua, during the commemoration of the first anniversary of the revolution, in the presence of Felipe Gonzalez, Pena Gomez and other leaders of the Socialist International, the Venezuelan ex-president chided the Cuban dictator "for being a pawn of the Soviet Union." To which Fidel Castro, disarmed, replied: "No, Carlos Andres, not a pawn, but a victim." And then he kept lamenting: "I know that as a leader of the nonaligned nations it has done me a lot of harm to have had to support the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan."

Notwithstanding, Fidel Castro, in that same interminable chat--6 hours of nicotine, coffee and confidential talk--justified the presence of his troops in Angola by virtue of the black component of a substantial part of the Cuban people. Felipe Gonzalez did not let him finish: "Look, Fidel," said the Spanish leader, "I am prepared to admit that the Cubans harbor feelings of solidarity for the Angolans facing the South Africans, but how do you explain the presence in Eritrea, in Ethiopia, incidentally supporting the lighter-skinned Abyssinians against the darker Somalis?" Fidel Castro remained silent. And then Felipe Gonzalez added the finishing touch: "Things like that inevitably make us in Europe think you are the fighting arm of the Soviet Union."

"Then did Fidel Castro try to dodge Gonzalez's attack gracefully?"

"He tried, but he could not, and we all had the clear perception that Castro, despite his tropical strength, feels he is a prisoner of the Soviets."

Carlos Andres Perez, with a serious gesture, switches from the anecdote to the crisis. He knows that swords are raised, he knows that Contadora is a corpse nobody wants to bury, he knows it is very probable that war will break out in Central America, and is horrified to think of the high cost of suffering and human lives, when perhaps the same ends could have been achieved--the defeat of Havana and Moscow--by more subtle methods. Now it is probable that the United States will be dragged into the conflict and surely anti-Yankee passions will probably be unleashed. As likely as not Castro, their great adversary, will be wiped off the map "and we will have one less worry," as he at one time argued with General Vernon Walters, but then "there would be no democratically elected governments to pledge to alleviate injustice untouched by the hostile sectarianism of the superpowers."

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BRIEFS

BRITISH FORCES IN GRENADA OPPOSED--COPEI [Social Christian Party] wishes to have a democratic region installed soon in Grenada and would look askance at the presence of a sort of British "imperial police" on that island. That is, the occupation of Grenada by British Commonwealth forces. In principle this would have been the reply Eduardo Fernandez would have given to the foreign minister of the republic Monday night at the Office of Interior Relations, when he was consulted about the stand Venezuela will adopt with regard to the Caribbean. Before leaving for Trinidad yesterday, Jose Alberto Zembrano Velazco also spoke with Democratic Action on the same issue. The Central American situation and the Caribbean are becoming increasingly heated and sensitive, especially now that Nicaragua has raised the issue in the United Nations. Venezuela, as a member of the Contadora Group, will surely have to participate in the debate that will ensue at that institution. This is why the minister of foreign affairs is consulting with the main parties. Then on Tuesday night, ambassador Richard Stone gave a dinner for the persons in charge of COPEI which oddly enough was attended by Isidro Morales Paul, an independent linked to Democratic Action and vice president of the CSE and whom Caldera named in advance minister of foreign relations. This was a strange occurrence and some jokers commented that the United States had taken seriously the announcement of the COPEI candidate. They even called him "minister" and he smiled. [Text] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 10 Nov 83 p D-17] 12448

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